

Hafa Adai!

Leepan calls AG opinion on advisory board 'soft wet pampers.' **PAGE 2**
Chief justice orders Camacho to stop further proceedings. **PAGE 3**

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ON ARREST OF EX-DPS CHIEF, COP FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT

Guerrero: Charges cast shadow on DPS

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The arrest of former Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero and Police Officer 3 Jesse S. Concepcion on charges of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl has cast a shadow over DPS personnel and their services, according to DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero.



Guerrero

"It's sad because it involves one of our officers and former commissioner," said Guerrero in an interview yesterday.

Guerrero said now that charges are filed in court, the matter is now with the judicial system.

The DPS commissioner said he is asking the public to continue trusting and supporting the department.

See DPS on Page 4

Navy fires back at environmental group

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The threat of a lawsuit did not move the Department of the Navy to comply with Endangered Species Act, according to a Joint Region Marianas yesterday.

Instead, the Navy was already in steps to comply with environmental

law for threats posed to endangered species by the Marianas Islands and Training and Testing project, according to the Navy.

The Navy's statement yesterday was responding to an earlier press release from the environmental group, Earthjustice, which announced last week that the U.S.

See NAVY on Page 4

Water supply enough for farmers for now

By **FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON**
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the current drought becoming worse in Micronesia, farmers on Saipan have adequate water supply for now, according to Department of Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Richard Seman.

"Right now we're doing okay, but it might get worse," Seman said.

Asked if they have noticed any plants or crops drying or yellowing up because of the heat, Seman said they haven't seen such incidences yet.

"Not yet at this point but I'm pretty sure that if it doesn't rain between now and next month, we'll start seeing some effect of this drought," Seman said.

"So far we're getting little but at least some consistent rain," he added.

Seman said they are closely monitoring farmers and ensuring that their water sources are working.

"We're making sure that all of our wells and pumps are up and running," Seman said.

Last January and since Typhoon Soudelor, wells servicing the land at the Kagman commercial farm plots

See WATER on Page 4



FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON

In this photo taken last January, a farmer tends to his land and crops at the Kagman commercial farm plots administered by the Department of Lands and Natural Resources-Division of Agriculture. Despite the ongoing drought, no significant drying up of crops was reported yet, according to DLNR Secretary Richard Seman.

INSIDE



LOCAL

Thai nationals on Saipan celebrated the Songkran festival last week at the Spicy Thai Noodle House in Garapan.

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LOCAL

In its ongoing efforts to support CNMI students and their educational goals, TakeCare Insurance recently donated \$2,500 to the NMC Foundation.

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OVERDRIVE

The Hyundai Elantra compact has been known for doing more with less on the dollar.

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Local

Leepan calls AG opinion on advisory board 'soft wet pampers'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Joseph Leepan Guerrero with Attorney General Edward Manibusan's position



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that the Department of Public Lands advisory board needs a full five-member majority, rather than the appointed four, to conduct meetings with the DPL secretary, saying that the law was silent on this issue and a four-member majority was sufficient to proceed per Robert rules of order.

Guerrero expressed his thoughts during House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources meeting on Thursday morning, where lawmakers also later moved on a bill to abolish DPL and replace it with a "Marianas Lands Corporation," recommending House Bill 19-82's passage in the full House, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

"There is a hidden agenda. They don't want an advisory board," Guerrero said during discussion.

Guerrero described an amendment he offered on the bill "would be in respect to the advisory board" and "give them the benefit of the doubt to work with the secretary."

House counsel John Cool, during discussion, also indicated that a majority of four could proceed with organization and appoint a chairman. The AG's reasoning—if one were to follow it—would mean that if five members were appointed and one was absent, "they would have to wait to act on pressing matter," Cool said.

"That's the most stupidest opinion I've heard in my life," Guerrero said.

Cool said DPL is the only agency in the entire Commonwealth government that functions that way. "We don't have a problem with CDA, we don't have a problem with SHEFA. We have a vacant position [and] it's still a majority... This is the only board that the AG—or someone—has taken the position that you have to have" five members, he said. But with other boards "similar to the advisory board. They don't have a problem."

Rep. Felicidad Ogunoro (R-Saipan) asked if the law "is clear" that they have to do it that way.

Cool said "the language that is used to create [the advisory board is used] for almost every other Commonwealth board... but this is the only board where the AG has raised this" issue. Following this logic, Cool said, every time there would be a vacancy at the CDA or the CPA board they would not be able to meet until they fill up the vacant seat.

The AG's opinion/interpretation is "a soft wet pampers," Guerrero said. "That's how I would interpret it."

The law does not say the five board members constitute a quorum, Guerrero said. He added, citing the Robert rules, four members would constitute a quorum. "Let them organize," he said.

AG opinion

In an April 4 opinion, Manibusan was responding for a request from DPL Secretary

Marianne Teregeyo for guidance on the responsibilities of the Public Lands advisory board, its timing and organization of meetings, the applicability of the Open Government Meetings and Records Act on the board, the board's advisory role, as well as the budget and expenditure authority with respect to the board.

Manibusan, in summary, said the board is an advisory body is limited to DPL's comprehensive land use plan and homestead programs.

"Its members serve without compensation. This advisory board is not a governing entity. It is not subject to the Commonwealth's Open Government Meetings and Records Act. As an advisory body, the board has no expenditure authority" over DPL funds, the AG said.

Citing the public law that established DPL, the AG said that while the law dictates "how" the board will be established—with four members appointed by mayors and one by the governor—the provision is "not self-executing" because it "requires the appointment of members by five different authorities."

"Until all five appointments are made, the mandate... has not been fully executed" and "no advisory board has been established" according to law, he said, and therefore, meetings cannot be called "until a fight and final member is appointed."

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ON REQUEST TO DECLARE 2016 BUDGET UNCONSTITUTIONAL**Chief justice orders Camacho to stop further proceedings**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has granted the government's emergency motion to stop all proceedings in the Superior Court pertaining to a request to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

In an order issued on Friday, Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro said all trial court proceedings in this matter are stayed pending the high court's decision on the government's petition to prohibit Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho from proceeding with the hearing on the motion to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

"We are convinced that the

Commonwealth has raised a serious question on the merits, demonstrated the likelihood of irreparable injury, and shown the balance of hardship tips sharply in favor of the Commonwealth to justify staying the trial court proceedings," Castro said.

Further, the chief justice said, they find that public interest is best served by granting a stay to preserve a level of legislative autonomy required by the Constitution.

"However, we conclude this without determining that the Commonwealth is more likely than not to prevail on the merits of the underlying claim," he said.

Aside from filing the emergency motion to stay before

the high court, the government also filed a motion to stay in the trial court.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay asserted that Camacho should stay further proceedings pending the CNMI Supreme Court's decision on the government's petition to prohibit the judge from hearing on the budget issue.

Lochabay filed the motions after Camacho issued an order last Feb. 8 allowing the parties to call any witnesses at the evidentiary hearing who will be helpful in deciding the constitutionality of the 2016 Budget Act, including members of the Legislature.

Camacho set the evidentiary hearing for May 9, 2016.

Lochabay recently filed a

petition, asking the CNMI Supreme Court to prohibit Camacho from proceeding with a hearing on the motion to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional.

Attorney Michael Dotts has argued that the Budget Act of 2016 is unconstitutionally unbalanced under the CNMI Constitution because it did not provide for the payment of judgments in a reasonable amount.

Dotts is counsel for plaintiffs Jotonia B. Aguon, Timothy Cruz, and Gorgonny Camacho.

Aguon and Cruz are holding a \$35,000 judgment against the government in connection with their lawsuit over the death of their child at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Gorgonny Camacho is hold-

ing a \$10,000 judgment against the government in connection with his medical malpractice lawsuit against CHC.

To collect payment of the two judgments that were entered in 2013, Dotts filed motions for orders in aid of judgment. He asked the Superior Court to declare the 2016 Budget Act unconstitutional. The two cases were consolidated.

In granting the government's motion to stay, Castro determined that there are serious questions raised by the government to justify a stay.

Castro said the Commonwealth argues that the constitutionality of the 2016 Budget Act is irrelevant to an order in aid of judgment because the constitutionality of the budget does not affect the government's ability to pay the plaintiffs.

This question, Castro said, in effect compels the high court to answer the issue of whether, in light of the high court's ruling in the Marine Revitalization Corp. case, courts can enforce unpaid judgments against the Commonwealth by holding a budget act unconstitutional and whether post-judgments proceeding is a proper vehicle to accomplish that objective.

"If any of these questions

are answered in the negative, we must then also inquire whether these proceedings may continue, and if so, whether the Commonwealth will be irreparably injured in the process," Castro said.

The chief justice said the language of the trial court's order violates the speech or debate clause because it permits examining members of the CNMI Legislature regarding the legislative process of the 2016 Budget Act.

Castro said while plaintiffs assert that the scope of discovery is limited, the broad parameters of examination permitted by the trial court's order to call "any witnesses" from the House or Senate for the purpose of scrutinizing the 2016 Budget Act may lead to the disclosure of protected communications and actions of the legislators.

"Such order, taken at face value, impels legislators to account for their legislative acts before the judiciary—a procedure that infringes on the legislative privilege our Constitution safeguards," he said.

Castro added that the potential harm is irreparable because once the depositions and evidentiary hearings are held, the protection is lost and cannot be remedied on appeal.

NMC negotiating with UOG for executive MBA program

By **DENNIS B. CHAN**
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College acting president David Attao disclosed last week that the college is in talks negotiations with the University of Guam for an executive master of business administration program, describing this as an "accelerated" and hybrid program that is "still in negotiations."

At the same time, Attao said the college's bachelors in business program would be graduating its first batch of 16 or 18 students this semester.

He also said the college had sent a draft memorandum of agreement to the Saipan casino, Best Sunshine International, Ltd. for their review to have a training program of sorts to get college students into the industry.

Attao made these comments after a Senate education committee hearing last Thursday, where the college was called on to share their comments on pending bills.

On the executive MBA program, Attao said they were soliciting the community for those interested. The program was "not an NMC program," he emphasized. It's more of a Guam program being extended out to us," he said.

Attao described the program as a "hybrid," a mix of online and on-site classes.

"A lot of community members here have very high level business experience but some of them lack that extra degree or that higher degree to make sure that they are competitive. So we are hoping to help that process along and make sure that we are doing our jobs," the acting college president said.

Attao disclosed that NMC and Best Sunshine—as part of the college's aim to help their students get well-paying jobs—were developing a curriculum from the University of Nevada and partners of NMC business program, to make their students have an opportunity to get into casino-related jobs, and trained and ready to do so.

"Best Sunshine has been providing very, very competitive

salaries within our community," he said. "And we are proud of that. And we want to make sure our students get access to that."

"We are working on a MOA to align what they need and what we have. And for us to create programs and that we provide those services of training as well on the casino side."

The draft MOA was sent two BSI for their review the week prior, according to Attao.

Attao, when asked, said the college "could do both" and train casino employees who come to the college and also help interested students apply for the market.

Attao, when asked who

would be backing the program with funds, said they "are asking BSI to support that. 'If we can or cannot, that's up to them. That's why we are writing a draft agreement to see what they can or cannot do,'" Attao said, noting that every program has start-up costs but he did not know the exact details yet.



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SNILD holds hearing on Zoning appointees

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation held a public hearing on Commonwealth Zoning Board members David Blanco and Joe Ayuyu Jr. in the House of Representatives chamber yesterday.

"I'm proud to be appointed. Thank you to the SNILD committee," Ayuyu told *Saipan Tribune*. "I'm just looking forward to getting back to the office and doing everything that we can to better represent the people, with all the considerations as far as prehistoric sites and pollution and working together with the different agencies to pretty much have a plan where we go hand in hand towards the same place."

Saipan Mayor David Apatang, in his comment letter to SNILD supporting the appointees, said that a "correct blend" of professional backgrounds and experiences were needed for the board in order to "adequately representative of every sector" of



DENNIS B. CHAN

Zoning board re-appointee Joe Ayuyu Jr., left, chats with Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) while Rep. B.J. Attao (Ind-Saipan) looks on during a break in a local delegation meeting yesterday.

the community.

"The task of managing and controlling the development of growth of Saipan becomes difficult when the correct blend is lacking: rendering the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Blanco and Mr. Ayuyu will give the different stakeholders some peace of

mind that they will be well represented," Apatang wrote.

During the hearing, Blanco said he "challenged" all lawmakers to find a way to make Saipan's beach area "accessible," calling the three to four miles stretch of Beach Road "pristine beach" that could be made into the

"Waikiki of Saipan."

"It's a wild idea but I think we can look at that," Blanco said, suggesting that the road be moved or relocated.

Igisomar told reporters after the hearing that he has "no thoughts" and had not yet time to digest Blanco's other suggestion to explore

DPS promoting 60 cops, personnel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is promoting 60 police officers and personnel, according to DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero.

In an interview yesterday, Guerrero said Gov. Ralph

DLG Torres already signed his recommendation to promote over 50 police officers with ranks of police officer 1, 2, and 3.

Guerrero said the promotion is in line with Torres' commitment to increase the salaries of police officers.

He said covered by the real-

location or promotion are the ones making below \$25,000 annually.

Guerrero said the promotion will take effect possibly in a week because they are just waiting actions from the Department of Finance and the Office of Personnel Management.

The commissioner said he is happy to promote the officers

because the last promotion happened at DPS was way back in 1991.

Guerrero said his next target is to promote those officers having the rank of sergeant.

He said those getting promotion are not for Saipan personnel only, but that Tinian and Rota DPS are undergoing salary adjustment or promotion as well.

LEEPAN

From Page 2

Proposed agenda

Advisory board members had sent a proposed agenda to Teregeyo last month that included a selection of officers, standing committees, and a 12-month board meeting calendar.

The proposed agenda also tasked reports from the DPL's

secretary's "vision, priority and performance timeline," scheduling of public hearings on outstanding homestead issues, and scheduling of a presentation by the DPL on its establishing law, current and future projects, fiscal year budget, financial status, and its organization composition, among others.

In a March 28 letter to the appointed board members, Teregeyo said absent quorum

requirements in their establishing law, there was "no authorization" for the board to "meet with fewer than full membership."

She said DPL's establish law "limits your role" to major issues affecting the management of public lands like DPL's land use plan and homestead program.

"Your proposed agenda venture far past advice and well into that of oversight.

Specifically, an advisory board has no authority to call public meetings or demand briefings from the department," she added.

Teregeyo also cited legislative records, or committee reports, prepared in establishing the advisory board. These stated that the law would "establish an advisory board, but limit its functions to advising, rather than controlling, the secretary..."

NAVY

From Page 1

Navy had agreed to consult the Wildlife Service over threats to endangered and threatened species posed by training and testing activities in the Mariana Islands,

Earthjustice's claim that "had citizens not taken action to hold the Navy accountable, it's doubtful the Navy would have ever scrutinized the threats its actions pose to these species," is inaccurate," JRM said.

"The Navy is fully aware of its ongoing obligations under the Endangered Species Act and has had an ongoing dialogue

with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the new species since they were proposed for listing in October 2014."

JRM said that immediately after the proposed listing, the Navy contracted with experts to conduct surveys to locate the new species so that the Navy could assess the potential effects of its proposed activities on them. And that based on these survey results and the Navy's subsequent analysis following the USFWS final listing decision in October 2015, the Navy determined to consult with USFWS.

"The letter [notice to sue] by Earthjustice did not prompt something not already in process by the Navy," JRM said.

In February, a coalition of groups represented by Earthjustice signaled their intent to sue the Navy over an alleged failure to consult with the Service after 23 species where declared endangered in the Marianas in October. The Navy had expanded their Marianas archipelago training last August.

Earthjustice, in their earlier statement, said the Navy's failure consult with the Service violated Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, which requires federal agencies to ensure their actions will not jeopardize species' continued existence.

The February letter gave the Navy and Fish & Wildlife

Service 60 days to resolve that violation and on March 31, the Navy sent a letter to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to initiate consultation on the 18 of the 23 newly listed species that the Navy determined could be affected by the expanded training, Earthjustice said.

"This legally mandated consultation is an important step to ensure that the Navy's actions do not push any of these newly listed species closer to extinction," said Earthjustice staff attorney David Henkin in the statement. "Had citizens not taken action to hold the Navy accountable, it's doubtful the Navy would have ever scrutinized the threats its actions pose to these species."

Marpi land for commercial use, which Blanco had called "NMD land that was not generating revenue."

"It's not something we were entertaining. We are not entertaining the concept, we were entertaining his response to a question in regards to Garapan and the congestion in Garapan," Igisomar said.

"He was proposing an alternative solution of expansion of investments to go as far as San Antonio or into the Marpi area. He was alluding to Marpi as an NMD location that was not generating funds."

Igisomar also asked the appointees to work with other

regulatory agencies to "stop the confusion where investors are running around in circles" over which government or office to visit first in moving their plans forward.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, in a letter last March 22, announced his re-appointment of board members Ayuyu and Blanco to SNILD.

In his letters, Torres said he is confident that Ayuyu and Blanco are qualified for the post and would continue to devote their time and efforts on this important board.

If confirmed, Ayuyu and Blanco will serve another two-year term.

WATER

From Page 1

encountered several problems including low production and control panel issues.

DLNR-Division of Agriculture director Manny Tenorio said in a prior interview that there were only three wells working at the time.

Tenorio said pumps are supposed to last up to five years, but because of the sediments in the water, the pumps usually corrode and deteriorate easily.

They spend about \$3,000 to \$4,000 per pump water replacement. Each well can push up to 30 to 35 gallons per minute.

According to Seman, the five wells dedicated to the commercial farm plots are now working.

"They are all working now," Seman said.

To ensure that the farmers' source of water will not be in-

terrupted, Seman said back-up pumps are being procured.

"The governor is also procuring five more for backup," Seman said.

According to Tenorio, farmers use untreated water directly from wells which are good for the plants and can use up to 40,000 gallons of water. They pay \$10 per month per farm turnout.

Because pumps sometimes break down and coupled with the ongoing drought, Tenorio said he encourages farmers to build and have their own tanks for water storage.

"I encourage people to apply with U.S Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, to build tanks," Tenorio said.

"Go and apply, you have nothing to lose. This is for you to have water, without water your crops are dead," he added.

DPS

From Page 1

ment as the officers will continue to work, providing safety services to the community.

Guerrero said he believes that the former commissioner and Concepcion are the ones getting more embarrassed with the situation they put themselves in.

Guerrero said police officers are just continuing to do their job because they are professionals and hard working.

The commissioner said he will continue supporting DPS personnel.

On DPS' morale, Guerrero said some are upset about it, but as a whole, DPS personnel would bounce back and continue to do their work.

Guerrero said when Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres appointed him to replace Deleon Guerrero as DPS commissioner, the information about Deleon Guerrero's involvement in the sexual assault case was not available.

Guerrero said a month ago, he heard that the investigation

was ongoing, but he was not told who are the people involved.

He, however, stated that he started hearing about the involvement of the former commissioner and Concepcion in recent weeks.

Investigators from the Attorney General's Investigation Division arrested Deleon Guerrero on Friday and Concepcion on Thursday for sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree. The two are out on bail and are placed on house arrest.

AGID investigator Vicente Boki Babauta stated in his report that in June to July 2013, while Deleon Guerrero was DPS commissioner, he engaged in sexual intercourse with the then-15-year-old girl on two different occasions in a DPS T-100 truck at a secluded San Antonio beach site.

Babauta said that in June to July 2013, Concepcion, while a DPS officer, engaged in sexual intercourse with the same minor girl on several occasions in a DPS T-100 truck at the San Antonio beach site.



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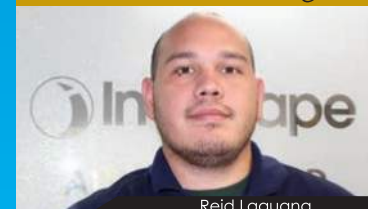
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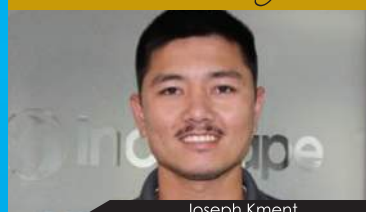


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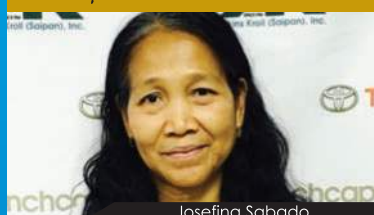


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4 arrested over seizure of 3 live green sea turtles

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four men were allegedly caught at a restricted area within the Seaport compound in Lower Base in possession of three live endangered green sea turtles, but a Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation officer who responded to the scene instead took one turtle and allowed the group to leave.

DFW conservation officers served over the weekend an arrest warrant to

conservation officer Alvin Fitial, 51, and the three other suspects—Anthony Pangelinan, 34, Jeffrey Iguel Teigita, 37, and Vicente Aldan Sablan, 46.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued the arrest warrant against the four defendants on charges of possession of an endangered/threatened species.

At a hearing yesterday, Camacho imposed \$10,000 cash bail each on all four defendants.

Preliminary hearing will be on April 27 at 9am.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Sablan. The court will appoint private lawyers for the other defendants. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

DPW Conservation Inspector Erwin T. Flores stated in his report that on Feb. 2, 2016, while Commonwealth Ports Authority Police Sgt. Vincent Billy was on duty at the Saipan Seaport, he witnessed a group of fishermen within a restricted area between 8:30pm to 9pm.

Billy investigated and identified the fishermen as Sablan, Teigita, Pangelinan, and Richard Anthony Tenorio. Billy observed the four to have just returned from fishing.

Billy heard a flapping sound coming from the bed-liner of a pick-up truck. Upon investigation, Billy saw three live green sea turtles concealed under a Styrofoam container.

Billy observed that a rope was used to restrain the turtles from moving.

Billy instructed the four not to leave as he then notified the Department of Public Safety, where he was given the telephone number

of DFW.

Billy spoke with Fitial about the incident and that the conservation officer subsequently arrived at the scene.

Flores said during his interview with Tenorio last April 10, Tenorio revealed that Fitial is Teigita's uncle.

Tenorio was not among those arrested.

Tenorio said when Fitial arrived at the scene, Teigita greeted and showed respect to Fitial.

Tenorio said Teigita and Fitial then talked.

After talking, Teigita instructed Tenorio to transfer one turtle from the truck to the DFW vehicle operated by Fitial.


Tenorio said they then departed the Seaport and proceeded to a store in San Antonio, where they sold the fish they caught.

Court documents did not indicate what the defendants did to the three turtles.

According to Flores, Tenorio disclosed that they spotted and caught the three turtles in the channel by the seaport.

After catching 70 lbs of fish, Tenorio said they started to head back to land by using a boat belonging to Sablan.

Tenorio said while they were at the Seaport Compound, Billy came and questioned them regarding their presence in the restricted area and possession of turtles.



**CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB16-GOV-089

**San Vicente Basketball Court Facility and Amenities Rehabilitation
San Vicente Village, Saipan, MP**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lieutenant Governor Victor B. Hocog are soliciting sealed bids for the Rehabilitation of the San Vicente Basketball Court Facility, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at the Governor's Office, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Administrator's Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. A \$50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference/site visit for this project on Tuesday, April 05, 2016 10:00AM ChST at the project site, San Vicente Basketball Court. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM ChST, Thursday, April 07, 2016 to the CIP Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All responses to questions should be shared with other prospective contractors.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB16-GOV-089, San Vicente Basketball Court Facility and Amenities Rehabilitation"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 9:00 AM ChST Tuesday, April 26, 2016. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 AM ChST Tuesday, April 26, 2016 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than Tuesday, April 26, 2016 and must be received no later than Thursday, May 05, 2016 ChST. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 AM ChST Tuesday April 26, 2016. However, if notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 AM ChST Thursday, May 05, 2016.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certificate from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per day, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ _____
Ralph DLG. Torres, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ _____
Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOW

Cancer survivors, entertainers invited to MMAC

By **JON PEREZ**
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All cancer survivors and patients who are currently undergoing treatment are invited to attend the Annual Survivor Dinner to be held during the 2016 Marianas March Against Cancer. The dinner, held in their honor, is set on May 13, 6pm at

the Hopwood Junior High School field.

Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, this year's MMAC overall committee chair, said this is their way of showing support and respect to all who have been directly affected by cancer. The MMAC committee and the event's sponsors will join the buffer dinner.

"Each survivor will be

treated to a complimentary dinner buffet and will be awarded a unique medalion and T-shirt commemorating their fight against cancer. This is a very important part of the MMAC," said Dela Cruz.

"Every one of us know someone who has been affected by cancer and the survivor dinner and ceremony is

our chance to celebrate their perseverance and strength," she added.

The MMAC committee is also extending their invitation to all musicians, bands, dancers, and other entertainers to perform live in the CNMI's largest fundraising event to fight and increase cancer awareness.


"We are calling on all performers who are interested in volunteering their time to show their support in the fight against cancer by performing live at the 2016 MMAC," said MMAC entertainment chair Carol P. Hosono

"We have limited slots available on a first-come, first-served basis so please contact us as soon as possible to confirm your spot," added co-chair Patty Kaipat.


Hosono said thousands join the MMAC every year. "This is your chance to show your support in the battle against cancer by performing live for our community."

MMAC is the Commonwealth Cancer Association's chief fundraising event where all proceeds go directly to the non-profit organization. The CCA uses the funds to increase cancer awareness and prevention, support services to all cancer patients, and other cancer-related activities.

For more information in the Survivor Dinner, call committee chair Nola Hix at 989-6652 or email her at nola.hix@gmail.com. To register for the live entertainment, call 484-5854 or email prideof90@gmail.com. For more information on MMAC, email Dela Cruz at geri.delacruz2@gmail.com or call CCA at 682-0050 or visit www.ccamarianas.org.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



**AMENDED
PUBLIC NOTICE**

**OF CUC'S PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER
ELECTRIC CHARGES AND PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 5-6, 2016**

This is a notice of a formal request to eliminate the Water Electric Charge (WEC) and Wastewater Electric Charge (WWEC) and to increase the electric rates, fees and/or charges of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), ("Rate Case"), and of the public hearing before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) which regulates CUC pursuant to Public Law 15-35, as amended.

The Commission will conduct a public hearing on **May 5-6, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.**, at CUC's main conference room (Room 17), third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the above regulatory matters in Dockets 13-01 and 15-03. The Commission will later conduct a special business meeting on May 25, 2016, to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing.

In 2013, under Docket No. 13-01, the CPUC considered several rate related matters which included LEAC (now FAC) reconciliation, net metering and the need for a review of unaccounted for energy. These matters will again be considered during the May public hearing, including a request from CUC to move from a six (6) month FAC reconciliation period to a monthly FAC reconciliation.

On April 23, 2015, CUC filed a petition and supporting evidence with the Commission to remove the WEC and WWEC in favor of an electric surcharge under Rate Case Docket No. 15-03. This petition was amended on March 10, 2016, for the sole purpose of modifying the proposed electric surcharge under the petition from \$0.0194 per kWh to \$0.01369 per kWh. This elimination of the WEC and the WWEC in favor of an electric surcharge of \$0.01369 kWh will become effective as determined by the Commission.

CUC requests that the CPUC modify its WEC and WWEC policies to eliminate the charges and replace them with an electric surcharge. This will lessen the burden on residential ratepayers relative to their water and wastewater charges. It is possible that consideration of this particular request will be deferred to a later time upon further notice from CUC and/or the CPUC.

The rate case filing, in its entirety, is available on CUC's website at: <http://www.cucgov.org>. Please click on "Regulatory Matters/Public Utilities Commission" then click on "March 10, 2016 Rate Application - Docket No. 15-03" to view or download the documents. A written copy of all petition materials will also be available for inspection at the following places: CUC Admin Office: Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building; CUC Tinian Office; CUC Rota Office.

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
CUC is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Thais on Saipan celebrate Songkran festival

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thai nationals on Saipan celebrated the Songkran festival last week with Phra Maha Wachira Paisopar and Phra Adrian Tanakaro, the first Chamorro Buddhist monk, leading the prayers and blessing at the Spicy Thai Noodle House in Garapan.

Phra is the common term used for a Thai Buddhist monk followed by his name. Thai Buddhism follows the Theravada school based on the Pali Canon, a collection of the oldest recorded Buddhist texts.

Songkran is the Thai New Year that falls every April 13. The annual holiday stretches to April 14 and 15. The occasion follows the lunar calendar in the astrological passage of Aries based on Hinduism.

Paisopar and Tanakaro led the chanting of the prayers, mostly for protection, and the blessing of the holy water. The monks also held on to a ball of thread, which symbolizes that all living things are connected with only one consciousness in life.

Thai nationals then gave the monks pieces of paper that have the names of their deceased loved ones, living relatives, and



JON PEREZ

Above, Thai Buddhist monks Phra Maha Wachira Paisopar, left, and Phra Adrian Tanakaro lead the prayers and chants in last Saturday's celebration of the Songkran Festival at Spicy Thai Noodle House.



Left, Thai community members, right, serve food to Buddhist monks Phra Adrian Tanakaro, left, and Phra Maha Wachira Paisopar in last Saturday's celebration of the Songkran Festival at Spicy Thai Noodle House.

other prayer intentions that were burned inside a bowl as a way of sending them off to the heavens.

The paper represents merits or sending good karma to your loved ones while the blessing is for keeping yourself safe and healthy the entire year.

Thai community members then washed the hands of Paisopar and Tanakaro, who in return also blessed them.

"The washing of the hands is like having all the bad things you've done and that happened washed away so you could start new, having a new beginning. Water is a very important part of the celebration," said Tanakaro.

Songkran is also known as the Water Festival in Thailand where it is regarded as one of the happiest days for the Thai people. Usually, offices and schools are closed during the three-day festivities.

It is also the time of reunion for families with those studying or working in other areas heading back home to spend time with their relatives.

PH overseas field voting April 25-28

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauline_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Registered overseas Filipino voters on Saipan can cast their votes for the 2016 Philippine National Elections during the field voting to be held next week.

According to honorary consul to the Philippines Glicerio Arago, the field voting will be held from April 25 to 28 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The four-day field voting will be open from 9am to 6pm. "We encourage our *kabayans* to exercise their right to vote for the betterment of our future and the generations to come," Arago said.

Arago said the Philippine Consulate General-Guam consul Mark Hamoy and Cristy Yap were deputized by the Philippine Commission on Election to conduct the field voting.

Hamoy is the Special Ballot Reception and Custody Group chair, while Yap is an SBRCC member.

PCG-Guam has in its custody the automated vote counting machine. The machine itself will not be brought to Saipan, instead, filled ballots will be brought back to Guam where the officers will be the one to feed it to the machine.

Voters will need to bring with them proper identification document such as valid

IDs or their passport.

To ensure that they are qualified to vote, Filipinos are encouraged to check if their names are included in the Certified List of Overseas Voters (CLOV) for GUAM, which can be found in philippinesguam.org or in the COMELEC website <http://www.comelec.gov.ph>.

There are about 11,900 registered Filipino voters in the PCG-Guam's jurisdiction which includes Guam, the CNMI, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands.

In the CNMI, there are 5,768 registered voters which is even more than Guam's

3,000-plus voters.

As field voting cannot be conducted on Tinian and Rota, their ballots have been mailed to the registered voters already, which they can submit until May 9 or the last day of the overseas absentee voting period and the actual Election Day in the Philippines.

JUAN T. LIZAMA, Esq.
Attorney at Law
Law office of Lizama
P.O. Box 501508
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7220/483-2662
Fax No.: 234-9093

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF:) CIVIL ACTION
) NO: 16-0059-CV
CARMEN DLG.)
DELOS REYES)
) NOTICE OF HEARING
) Time: 1:30 P.M.
Deceased) Date: May 31, 2016
) Judge: Wiseman,
) David A.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 31, 2016 at 1:30PM in the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, MP, the Petitioner, Guadalupe Delos Reyes Hofschneider, will petition the court for Letters of Appointment as Executrix of the estate of Carmen DLG. Delos Reyes.

Dated this 6th day of April, 2016

/s/ JUAN T. LIZAMA
Attorney for Petitioner

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-OPA-100 (A-C)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 05, 2016 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWELVE (12) LAPTOPS, TWO (2) DESKTOP COMPUTERS WITH ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE AND INSTALLATION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI, CPA
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DPS-098

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 12, 2016 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN (10) RADAR UNITS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHWAY SAFETY, SAIPAN DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DPS-095

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 12, 2016 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) LIGHT TOWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – HIGHWAY SAFETY, SAIPAN DPS TRAFFIC SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/s/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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NMIS-PSS sign historic Early Head Start partnership

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas International School became the first privately owned primary learning institution to sign an agreement with the Public School System's Early Head Start program with local education officials hailing the historic partnership.

CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, EHS program director Melissa DLR Palacios, PSS associate commissioner for student and support services Yvonne R. Pangelinan, acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, Head



Start Policy Council chair Tina Crisostimo, and acting Child Care Development Fund administrator Vince Rabauliman represented the government side during the signing.

NMIS president Erick Van De Maas, director Ronnie Tan, school vice principal Jener Pineda, their teachers, staff, and students witnessed the historic signing.

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh, finance and budget director Derek Sasamoto, nutritionist Kaisa Anderson, and Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) also

Northern Marianas International School president Erick Van Der Maas, second right, signs the partnership agreement between NMIS and the Public School System as Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, from left, CNMI State Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, and NMIS director Ronnie Tan look on last Friday at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

attended last Friday's signing.

Sablan said the signing of the agreement was a significant and historical moment since the partnership is the first time between PSS and a private learning institution.

"The work began in 2014 and it was not easy. We faced a lot of

challenges but the good thing is the dedication of the people behind this program," said Sablan in her opening remarks.

"We recognize the support given by the early child care program and DCCA. NMIS stepped up to the plate for children to enroll and study since early education is important to the community," she added.

BOE chair Guerrero said that the CNMI school district remains committed to the early education of a child. "This is the result of two years of work for the EHS program. We like to see the program as seamless as possible."

"NMIS is the first in all territories and other U.S. states to have the program. Some states have not implemented it at all. Congratulations to NMIS and we look forward to a great partnership," Guerrero added.

Pangelinan said having a child start early in school is an important part of their lives as they learn to socially interact and learn language skills. "I commend NMIS for committing to the program. Students are not the only ones going to benefit from it but the whole community."

Crisostimo, meanwhile, early education and development prepares the child to the future with today's workforce becoming more technologically advanced. "Their success depends on us. As teachers, leaders, policy makers, and as parents."

"To be directly involved with our children's education, not only at EHS but up to high school where they need our guidance and experience to prepare them for tomorrow's demands."

Bangladeshi community marks Bengali New Year

By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan's Bangladeshi community marked the Bengali New Year or Pohela Boishakh last Thursday, April 14, the first day of the Bengali calendar. The island has a vibrant Bangladeshi community that annually commemorates four of their major festivals.

The Bangladeshi Cultural Group led the Bengali New Year celebration, also known as Shubho Noboborsho, last week at the Kili Pavilion at Oleai beach right across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Bangladeshi community members were dressed in their traditional and colorful attires,

and also had fireworks.

"But not unlike the Chinese New Year. We only had some fireworks," said BCG president Rakibul Islam.

Over 100 members joined the festivities where traditional food was served while songs, dances, and poetry reading were held for entertainment. Kids ran around and played within the grounds, while their parents and other elders enjoyed the raffle where various prizes were given away.

Security was tight in the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka as tens of thousands celebrated and joined the festivities. Celebrations were also held in Bengali-speaking regions of India and states of West



Several members of the local Bangladeshi community welcome the Bengali New Year wearing their traditional attire in last week's celebration at the Kili Pavilion.

Bengal, Tripura as well as in small communities in Assam, Jharkhand, and Orrisa.

Bangladeshi communities in other countries also had similar celebrations.

The BCG also celebrates the Bengali Language Movement Day every Feb. 21, their Independence Day ev-

ery March 26, and Victory Day—commemorating the Allied Forces' victory over Pakistan's military in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War—on Dec. 16.

The BCG aims to continue their culture and traditions even thousands of miles away from their motherland. They

also want to teach their youth, especially those who were born in the CNMI, of their heritage.

It was in early '90s when the first group of Bangladeshi came to Saipan to work. Their numbers swelled through the years with some even starting their own families here.

and Mandarin Airlines is expected to boost visitor arrivals as it will open the door for the development of an alternative market to the declining tourism economy. Mandarin Air will begin its Taipei-Saipan flight twice a week on May 1, 2000 using a 158-seater B737-800.

April 19, 2001

CNMI consumers brace for higher power rates

Tinian and Rota will be adversely affected by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's soon-to-be implemented rate increase in hopes to recoup revenue losses and to aid maintenance of power plants. According to the 10-year rate structure proposal approved by the CUC board last week, the power corporation needs to implement new rates to get all utility services going. In a meeting with Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, CUC Board Chair Jesus Guerrero and Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez outlined the recommended rate hike which will take effect immediately. Under the recommended rate structure, increases will affect the first and second senatorial districts of Tinian and Rota due to volume of production.

EPA OKs shipment of PCB laced-soil to US

Tanapag villagers received full support from Guam and US Environmental Protection Agency officials after amendments were made to the Toxic Substance Control Act which warrants the shipment of PCB-contaminated soil to mainland.

Even Guam Environmental Protection Agency lamented that PCBs from several cleanups are in indefinite storage on the island. These storage areas are subject to damage by frequent typhoons and earthquakes. "The proposed rule would remove a tremendous burden on Guam and ensure that a safe and viable mechanism existed for the protection of health and

the environment of Guam and other US territories communities from PCB waste," the EPA report reads. Pacific islanders pressed for the immediate disposal of PCB-contaminated soil to help eliminate threats to the health and welfare of affected territories.

\$311K allotted to operate visitor center

The U.S. National Park Service has allocated \$311,000 solely for the operation of the new American Memorial Park Visitor Center, park ranger Chuck Sayon reported yesterday. Sayon said the amount would bring the park's annual operating budget to \$1.1 million, a seven-fold increase from the facility's budget when Sayon took over 10 years ago. Under construction for the past year and a half, the Visitor Center is expected to open its doors to the public on May 28, the Saturday before Memorial Day. The new facility will also have a 120-seat theater and a mock-up of the cave where some local and Japanese people took refuge during the World War II bombings. He said the park is currently working on a five-year master plan that includes expansion of the wetland, as well as sports facilities within the park.

Arson not ruled out in building fire

Investigators are looking at the possibility of arson being behind the fire that gutted a Chalan Piao commercial and housing establishment last week and its possible link to a homicide case that happened in the same building earlier this year. Police discovered the body of a dead Chinese woman in one of the rooms at the establishment last Jan. 24. The woman, who was supposed to turn 43 yesterday, had injuries on her body and signs of having been strangled. Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David said that he was unaware if evidence gathering at the room had been completed in connection with the homicide case.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 19, 2000

No date set yet for release of rebate check

The Department of Finance has deposited between \$15 million to \$17 million to a trust account that will be used to pay out rebates and refunds to more than 30,000 taxpayers in the CNMI. But Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen disclosed the department has yet to set the date for the release of the checks, saying only that they are on target in their tax collection. Although filing of income tax returns ended on Monday, Ms. Nielsen said the department will still be accepting documents from taxpayers who are unable to beat the deadline. However, she said there is penalty for filing the tax returns late and interests will start accruing each day of delay.

March arrivals post flat growth

Visitor arrivals for the month of March reached 44,355 representing a flat growth compared to the same period of the previous year, according to the Marianas Visitors Authority. As Japan's arrival record failed to show any improvement during this period, tourism officials see a little hope on the continuous increase in visitor arrivals from Korea which jumped 36 percent. The failure of the Japanese market to show any improvement was attributed to the one percent decline in direct flights from Japan as a result of the termination of the airline's direct service from Osaka and Nagoya. The recent signing of a charter agreement between Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino

Grand Mariana will ease Saipan's lack of hotel rooms

Best Sunshine International, Ltd.'s focus in developing a world-class integrated resort on Saipan will also address the lack of hotel room problem that has continually confronted the Commonwealth's ailing travel industry.

Phase 1 of its development will result in 373 additional rooms. This is the Grand Mariana Casino Hotel and Resort, the \$550-million mammoth structure that is expected to open in December 2016. The launch of the hotel will take place in the first quarter of 2017.

In its "2015 Annual Results" released last month, Imperial Pacific International Holdings Limited, the investment holding company of Best Sunshine International, said that over the next 12 to 18 months the hotel landscape in the CNMI will change.

This is with the expected opening of two more new luxury hotels. With Grand



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This artist's rendition shows Best Sunshine's \$550-million Grand Mariana Casino & Hotel Resort project at the Samoan Housing area in Garapan.

Mariana Casino Hotel and Resort, the supply of luxury hotel

rooms on Saipan will now increase by 1,015 rooms.

Another Hong Kong-based investor, Honest Profit Inter-

national Ltd., is expected to open its \$130-million, 300-room hotel in San Antonio since its groundbreaking two years ago.

Kensington Hotel, the former Hotel Nikko facility, is expected to officially open on June 1.

Altogether, the three hotel openings will increase Saipan's current hotel room capacity by 38 percent.

Grand Mariana Casino Hotel and Resort represents 36 percent of the total additional hotel rooms expected to open up soon on Saipan.

Records from the Hotel Association of the Mariana Islands showed that there are currently only 20 rated hotels on the island of Saipan. This is with a total combined room of 2,666.

The supply of luxury hotel rooms is also very limited, with five-star hotel rooms only accounting for an estimated 10 percent of the total

supply, records show.

With the opening of Grand Mariana Casino and Resort, Best Sunshine International is also developing first class hospitality services on Saipan.

The Hong Kong-based investor is now on track for Phase 1 of its \$7.1-billion integrated resort investment on Saipan, the largest private sector investment in this side of the world.

The Commonwealth Casino Commission in January of this year has reaffirmed Imperial Pacific's financial position when it said that its Saipan flagship company is financially capable to complete the construction of its Grand Mariana Casino Hotel and Resort.

Grand Mariana will feature a four-story casino building in an elegant Beaux-Arts architectural style of the famed Casino de Monte Carlo.

It will also be an imposing 16-story hotel tower with 373 hotel suites. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Saipan's Sophie Dela Cruz recently obtained Low Income Housing Tax Credit Property Management Certification. She is shown posing in front of Sandy Beach Homes.

Dela Cruz gets LIHTC Property Management certification

Sophie Dela Cruz recently obtained the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Property Management Certification, an essential component to managing housing developments such as Sandy Beach Homes.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the LIHTC program is the most important resource for creating affordable housing in the United States today.

This is an important step for Sandy Beach Homes and Saipan Comfort Homes, Triple J Saipan's latest housing development scheduled for completion in February 2017.

Dela Cruz will be able to lend her skills to selecting ideal tenants while maintaining strict regulatory compliance so as to ensure occupancy and overall success in the LIHTC housing communities.

"I am excited and proud to continue to develop this important expertise in my field," Dela Cruz said.

Dela Cruz, who is originally from Pohnpei and lived on Saipan most of her life, joined Triple J in 2014, and took full control of lease management of Sandy Beach Homes, which has been fully occupied since 2012. "Sophie's done a tremendous job at Sandy Beach Homes and will lead lease-up

efforts for our newest housing project, Saipan Comfort Homes, a development that includes 40 two-bedroom units opening in early 2017. We're quite fortunate to have her on our team and very proud of her certification. She's become our resident expert on LIHTC property management compliance," Triple J Saipan Finance and Administration vice president Mike Sablan stated.

Saipan Comfort Homes and Sandy Beach Homes are filling a much needed housing shortage on Saipan. Creating affordable housing to those in need will be essential to the continued growth and development of the CNMI. **(PR)**

TakeCare donates \$2.5K to NMC Foundation

In its ongoing efforts to support CNMI students and their educational goals, TakeCare Insurance recently donated \$2,500 to the NMC Foundation. The donation was made in support of the 13th Annual Foundation Open golf tournament that will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016, at Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

The NMC Foundation is composed of individuals who are committed to raising funds for the college's programs and services. The golf tournament is one of the organization's largest fundraising events.

"We are extremely grateful for TakeCare's donation and continued support of the college and the NMC Foundation," said NMC Foundation president May Ayuyu.

The 13th Annual Founda-

tion Open golf tournament will be held at the Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west Course on Saturday, April 30, 2016 with a show time of 6am and a shotgun start at 7am. The tournament will follow a medal play format.

There are six flights with \$500 cash prize for first place, while second place is \$300 and third place is \$200. The six categories are: Championship, A, B, C, Seniors, and Ladies.

The entrance fee is \$100 per player. Payments for the entrance fee can be made at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, and the NMC Cashier.

For more information on how to donate to the NMC Foundation or to register to play, log on to www.marianas.edu or call 234-5498 ext. 6764/ 6840. **(PR)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nora Sablan, Takecare Insurance operations manager, fourth from left, hands over the check donation to NMC Foundation executive director James Glenn, fifth from left. Also in photo is the staff from FHP and Northern Marianas College interim president David Attao, third from left.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Are GOP rules Trumped-up?

As a self-styled outsider candidate taking on the political establishment, billionaire casino mogul Donald Trump has always been running against the Republican Party to some degree. Lately, though, his efforts to de-legitimize the party and its rules have become more explicit.

His current grouching was prompted by the state GOP convention in Colorado last weekend, where Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, walked away with all 34 delegates. This, to Trump, amounted to highway robbery. Sympathetic bloggers carped that Colorado Republicans had been denied a chance to vote (they voted only in precinct caucuses), and Trump called the GOP nominating process a “rigged, disgusting, dirty system.”

On first glance, Trump’s complaints fit his pattern of blaming someone else each time his campaign has stumbled. The rules governing the nominating process, however, have been clear at least since last October, when each state’s procedures for picking delegates were finalized and revealed to all the candidates. And at the moment the rules seem to be helping Cruz, who is every bit as much an anti-establishment figure as Trump. The difference between the two appears to be that Cruz’s campaign understood what Trump’s ignored. Funny how someone who holds himself out as a masterful deal negotiator would fail to read all the way through the fine print.

If anyone can legitimately complain about the byzantine nominating process, it would be voters. Participants in a primary election or a caucus may not understand that they’re not casting an iron-clad vote for a candidate. Their ballots tell the state’s delegates (often chosen later at state party conventions) how to vote at the national convention, but those instructions are binding for as little as one round. If no candidate is supported by a majority of the 1,237 delegates after the national convention’s first round, the delegates can start shifting their allegiance to rival candidates.

Recognizing the very real possibility that Trump won’t go into Cleveland with a majority, the Cruz campaign has tried to load state delegations with as many Cruz supporters as possible. That way, after the first round, it will be easier for him to round up delegates whose initial votes were pledged to Trump, Ohio Gov. John Kasich or a half dozen GOP candidates who have dropped out of the race.

Again, it may surprise Trump supporters to learn that the delegates he won in their states may not stay loyal to the former reality-show host when the going gets tough. Is that undemocratic? Yes, but primaries and caucuses aren’t designed as exercises in direct democracy. They’re designed to help the national party pick a nominee with broad-based support within its ranks, on the assumption that it will improve the party’s chances of winning in November.

Trump’s argument seems to be that, as the longtime front-runner and the leading vote-getter, the party should hand him the nomination even if he doesn’t win a majority of the delegates. But there’s a good reason behind the majority rule: The party wants a nominee who has a chance of winning a general election. Most Republicans who’ve cast ballots thus far have voted for someone other than Donald J. Trump. Unless delegates were allowed to switch horses after the first round or two of balloting, the party would never break the looming stalemate between Trump and Cruz — another candidate opposed by most Republican primary voters — or find a consensus nominee.

The GOP finalized in September 2014 the broad framework for how states would choose delegates, and the rules for the nominating processes in each state were set in stone in October 2015. So if the party designed the process to frustrate Trump, that plot

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The foreign policy of a President Hillary Clinton

How would President Hillary Clinton conduct foreign policy? After decades of public exposure, including four years as secretary of state, one would think the answer to that question would be obvious. But it isn’t entirely clear.

Perhaps that’s because Sen. Bernie Sanders, whom she debated Thursday ahead of the New York primary, has tried to paint her as Hillary Hawk by constantly harping on her Senate vote for the Iraq war (while punting on most foreign policy questions.) Clinton has apologized for backing the 2003 war.

Or perhaps it’s because her role as secretary was constrained by the fact that, during her tenure, foreign policy decision-making was closely held by the Obama White House. We don’t know what Clinton would have done had she been given the leeway of a James Baker (who held the post under President George H.W. Bush).

We do know that Clinton’s instincts were more muscular than her boss. In the summer of 2012 — before the Islamic State, when senior Syrian military defectors were looking for help in organizing a secular rebellion — she urged President Obama to arm and train Syrian rebels. This position was also adopted by Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, CIA head David Petraeus and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Martin Dempsey. Obama demurred.

When I asked a senior aide how she would differentiate herself from Obama, he replied, “They are two different people with two different styles and temperament (and differences in) how they think of America in the world.”

Clinton sees America as the leading global actor, without apologies, and wants to use all the tools of American power — including force, in collaboration with allies, if there is a compelling national interest and all other tools have failed.

Whereas an aide famously described Obama as “leading from behind” Clinton is clearly eager to lead from the front.

But, during a conference call with The Philadelphia Inquirer’s Editorial Board this week, when I asked her to describe her foreign policy philosophy, her emphasis was on diplomacy. “When I became secretary of state,” she said, “I chose to say I wanted to practice smart power, meaning I wanted to elevate diplomacy and development (alongside) defense, because I thought the Bush administration militarized our foreign policy to our detriment.”

A perfect example of “slow, patient diplomacy,” she said, was the Iran sanctions. As secretary, she put together the international coalition, including Russia and China, that imposed the toughest ever sanctions on Tehran, which finally brought the ayatollahs to the bargaining table. Clinton started the negotiations for the agreement that was completed by Secretary John Kerry.

But, and here she was emphatic, “We’ve got to enforce it. If the Iranians violate even a lesser provision, there needs to be consequences.” Her emphasis on enforcement was made with a vehemence that isn’t usually heard from Obama.

I asked her views on use of force, and whether she regretted

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.



her advice to Obama to intervene in 2011 to prevent Moammar Gadhafi from massacring the inhabitants of Benghazi, Libya, a decision that ultimately produced a failed state which has become a terrorist haven. (This is a different issue from the tragic deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens and three U.S. officials in Benghazi, which have generated endless conspiracy theories that have been disproved by eight congressional committees.)

Clinton insisted she acted only after urgent requests from the British and the French, as well as the Arab League, and after the U.N. Security Council had called for measures to protect civilians. U.S. military involvement was limited, in support of NATO partners and the Arabs.

Yet a humanitarian intervention evolved into regime change, and America’s allies failed to help rebuild Libya after the fall of Gadhafi. A Clinton aide cautions “don’t extract from Libya that she is a fan of regime change, but sometimes a dictator remaining in power is the worst option.”

To be fair, had Obama not intervened, the Libyan situation might have turned out like Syria, with a dictator clinging to power as civil war raged and terrorist groups took root.

Clinton seems on firmer ground when speaking of Syria, where she says diplomacy must be accompanied by “intensifying our military actions against (the Islamic State).” She would like a more robust air coalition to take out Islamic State infrastructure and leadership, while supporting Kurdish and Arab fighters on the ground who are battling the Islamic State.

I have my doubts about her call for a “no-fly zone” in the north of Syria to train and equip those fighters. With Russia involved, and Turkey at odds with the Kurds, I doubt such a zone is possible, but Clinton says she would push it in talks with Moscow and Ankara.

However, events in Syria are moving so fast, no one can predict the situation when the next president is sworn in.

What one can say is that Clinton has far more foreign policy experience and a deeper network of advisers than any of her competitors. And the foreign policy alternatives to her candidacy are slim.

In a meeting with the Inquirer Editorial Board, the charismatic Sanders was clearly disinterested and thinly briefed on foreign issues. As for her GOP competitors, Donald Trump is totally ir-

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Hillary Clinton flunks the yes-no question test

Primaries require candidates to play to their party's base, and it's easier to do so when your campaign depicts the world in black and white — evil vs. good, wrong vs. right. The choices that elected officials actually have to make, however, aren't binary, so politicians who hold themselves out as realists have to sell the public on something more nuanced. Squishier.

At the Democratic debate Thursday in Brooklyn, crusading Democratic socialist Bernie Sanders showed viewers just how squishy Hillary Clinton could be.

He did so by pushing Clinton to give yes-no answers to questions about raising the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour and shoring up the Social Security Trust Fund. And rather than sounding peeved by saying those topics defy simplistic approaches, Clinton tried to have it both ways, only to have Sanders call her on it.

She insisted that she was an early supporter of the "fight for \$15" in cities across the country, then had to admit that she backs a more modest proposal in Congress. And when asked if she would increase Social Security taxes on middle- and upper-income earners, she said she was in "vigorous agreement" with Sanders — after saying the government should be looking at other ways to achieve the same goal.

The maddening thing is, Clinton shouldn't be afraid to be less rigid than Sanders. Her position on the minimum wage, for example, aims lower but is a lot more reasonable. Sanders' stated goal is to push the entire country to a \$15 wage, more than twice the current federal minimum, as soon as possible. Clinton, by contrast, backs a bill by Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. — no one's idea of a centrist Democrat — to raise the federal wage to \$12 while urging states and cities to go higher if they can.

Anyone who cares about eliminating poverty knows how important it is to raise the incomes of low-wage workers. The question

here, though, is whether that can be done with the wave of a wand, or whether it requires a much broader effort to increase job skills, eliminate barriers to full-time work and fire up the economy to intensify the competition for labor. There's also the risk that sharply raising the price of labor will make it harder for younger and less educated people to find work at all. Yet that risk is balanced against the prospect that a higher minimum wage will lead to more spending, higher demand and greater economic growth.

Could Clinton have held the audience's attention long enough to explain these trade-offs and complexities, triggering a more useful discussion of anti-poverty programs? Probably not. Yet she didn't even try.

There's no reward in politics, it seems, for trying to explain how complex things are.

She didn't fare much better on the Social Security question, which dealt with the cap on payroll taxes. Today, the Social Security portion of the payroll tax is collected on the first \$118,500 in income only; that cap also limits the maximum benefits paid. Moderator Wolf Blitzer asked whether Clinton was "prepared to lift the cap on taxable earnings ... yes or no."

But that's not what Sanders has advocated, because simply lifting the cap on taxes and benefits would raise taxes on a lot of middle-class households in high-cost areas. And while it would improve Social Security's solvency well into the future, it would not be a permanent solution because the program would still run into the red eventually.

What Sanders has proposed is to remove the tax cap on those making more than \$250,000 a year, while leaving the benefits cap in place — an idea, he says, that Barack Obama championed in his 2008 campaign. Several analysts have projected that this change would close Social Security's funding gap for at least 75 years. But Sanders didn't acknowledge how the move would transform Social

By **JON HEALEY**
Los Angeles Times

Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times deputy editorial page editor. Readers may send him email at jon.healey@latimes.com.



Security from an insurance program into a welfare program, transferring wealth explicitly from higher incomes to lower ones.

In Sanders' view, that's a feature, not a bug. But it's fraught politically. One reason Social Security has withstood attack after attack over the years is the public's sense that it's a savings program — what you receive in benefits is based on what you pay in. That sense would evaporate if benefits were capped but taxes were not.

Again, it may be the right policy, but the change isn't nearly as simple as Sanders suggests. And to her credit, Clinton pointed out other changes that could be made to shore up the Social Security Trust Fund without reducing benefits or turning the retirement program into something that looks like welfare. But instead of insisting on a more sophisticated debate, Clinton pretended she was on the same page as Sanders. She isn't, and she ought to own that.

Then again, the Republican presidential primaries once had several candidates who tried to point out the complexities of real-world governing, including Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush. The only one left now is Ohio Gov. John Kasich, whose "I'm the adult in the room" campaign theme has left him far, far behind front-runner Donald Trump.

There's no reward in politics, it seems, for trying to explain how complex things are. Still, if you're going to offer policy prescriptions that acknowledge real-world tradeoffs, you need a better answer to yes-no questions than Clinton offered Thursday night.

TV shows its conservative side on abortion issue

Maybe the makers of "The Big Bang Theory" don't watch "Meet the Press."

Hillary Clinton got into a bit of trouble earlier this month when she told "Meet the Press" host Chuck Todd that "the unborn person doesn't have constitutional rights."

Clinton was merely noting that some restrictions on abortions are permitted under the law. But the real kerfuffle was over the idea that a person can exist in America without any rights — or that fetuses are people at all. The International Planned Parenthood Federation cautions activists to avoid the "p" word. It's not a person until it's born or, as Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) once suggested, until you bring it home from the hospital. Until then, it's a fetus or "uterine contents." Planned Parenthood advises that activists don't say "abort a child," preferring "terminate a pregnancy" or some such.

Clinton is rarely that blunt. She usually likes to use the term "women's health." That way she can claim that people who are against abortion-on-demand are against "women's health."

Anyway, it was hardly a big controversy — more like a Twitter dust-up. That's probably why the writers of the hit CBS sitcom "The Big Bang Theory" missed it.

One of the characters, Bernadette, recently got pregnant. In the episode that aired April 7, Bernadette, her husband Howard and their friend Rajesh use a home ultrasound kit. When they hear the unborn baby's heartbeat, Rajesh exclaims, "You guys made a person!"

Howard replies, "We did!"

This highlights a phenomenon I've written a lot about: On

some issues, Hollywood can be downright right-wing. From the value of guns in "The Walking Dead" to the honor of police in countless dramas to the importance of family in most sitcoms, there is a lot more conservatism, broadly understood, on TV than conservatives or liberals ever notice.

And so it is with abortion. With the exception of "Maude," an awful left-wing 1970s TV show (along with some "edgy" HBO series), there have been no major sitcoms in which a character has had an abortion.

Why? Well, one reason is abortions aren't funny. There's no reason to write a storyline in which a character gets pregnant only to decide later not have a baby. That's not a punch line, it's a tragedy. Even the very liberal Mindy Kaling, star and producer of "The Mindy Project," says the show won't touch the issue of abortion — and Kaling plays a gynecologist!

Maybe you could write a funny scene where a woman goes to the doctor to get a mammogram or deals with some other aspect of "women's health." I don't know. But you really can't write a knee-slapper about a woman deliberately terminating an unborn person's life.

Sometimes the pregnant character agonizes about her choice (and occasionally there's a miscarriage), but the moment Rachel from "Friends" or Murphy Brown or Bernadette chooses to keep it, the "it" stops being an it, and becomes a he or she.

Emotionally, that's how it works for many, perhaps most, people. When a woman wants to keep her baby, it becomes a baby long before it's born. No father speaks to a belly full of "uterine contents," and no mother thumbs through a book of baby names

By **JONAH GOLDBERG**
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.



for a fetus she is going to dispose of anyway.

That's how a lot of public policy works, too. Under federal law and many state laws, if you murder a pregnant woman, you can be charged with two homicides.

The White House is asking for a lot of money to fight the Zika virus. "I think Democrats and Republicans in Congress are interested in making sure that pregnant women and unborn children in this country can be properly protected," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said in February.

Unborn children? Yes, both parties want to protect unborn children from disease-carrying mosquitoes. But that bipartisan ship falls apart when it comes to Planned Parenthood.

This emotional parsing is understandable. The problem is that emotion isn't the best foundation for law. In the past, emotion led lots of Americans to think blacks weren't persons either. Logic, science and, finally, moral reasoning said otherwise. If over here an unborn child is a person but over there it isn't, and the only thing distinguishing the two is someone's feelings, we've got a problem. And it's not just a problem of language.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Corruption by law enforcement officials

The arrest of former DPS Commissioner James C. DeLeon Guerrero over the weekend, coming on the heels of the recent prison sentencing of previous DPS commissioner Ambrosio Oguero, was truly shocking to everyone in the CNMI. It basically re-affirmed our long-standing suspicion that the leadership at the CNMI Department of Public Safety, for many years now, leaves a lot to be desired. Over the past decade or so, this and previous administrations have been appointing individuals to head our key law enforcement agency, based primarily on political affiliation and loyalty, not on integrity and competency. Until this and subsequent administrations begin appointing qualified individuals with the integrity, background and necessary credentials for the office that they are appointed to, we will continue to see more of the same, to the detriment of the safety of the people whom these public officials are supposed to serve.

Yes, this will continue to happen because many of the heads of the various departments and agencies are not qualified for the position they are holding. Part of the reason for this is the absence of any real vetting process. Before any head of any department or agency is appointed to serve, the individual must

be thoroughly vetted by, say, an independent vetting board. This vetting board, or something similar, should thoroughly interview the potential appointee and conduct a thorough background check on the appointee.

Another reason is the absence of any true confirmation hearing by the CNMI Senate whenever, in their zeal to please the administration, in effect confirms an appointee before conducting a hearing, i.e. the confirmation hearing is held only for show.

The people of the CNMI deserve no less than qualified individuals serving them. The executive and legislative branches of the CNMI government should never take lightly their duties and responsibilities, whenever they make such important appointments to head our various departments and agencies. Party loyalty and affiliation should be the last thing to consider for such appointments; integrity and competency should be the top two requirements for holding such executive offices. After all, the safety of our people, the health of our people, and their general welfare and well-being should always be paramount.

Jose S. Dela Cruz
Navy Hill

GOP

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had to have been hatched long before he started winning primaries and scaring the bejeebers out of the party establishment.

By the way, the rules that will govern the convention in Cleveland in July will be set by the convention delegates, a plurality of whom will almost certainly be pledged to Trump. That voting bloc should give his campaign considerable influence over those rules — assuming that Trump is paying attention. Given what happened in Colorado, he probably will be.

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CLINTON

From Page 10


responsible while Sen. Ted Cruz's mix of fundamentalism and careless military bravado is scary.

Obama once said his organizing principle was "don't do stupid stuff." Clinton aides say her organizing principle is this: "The United States must be aggressive in leading, in pulling friends together and creating disincentives for our adversaries." In this strange election year, that looks like the best foreign policy mantra we can get.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian


TODAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼75°


WEDNESDAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼75°


THURSDAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼75°


FRIDAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼75°

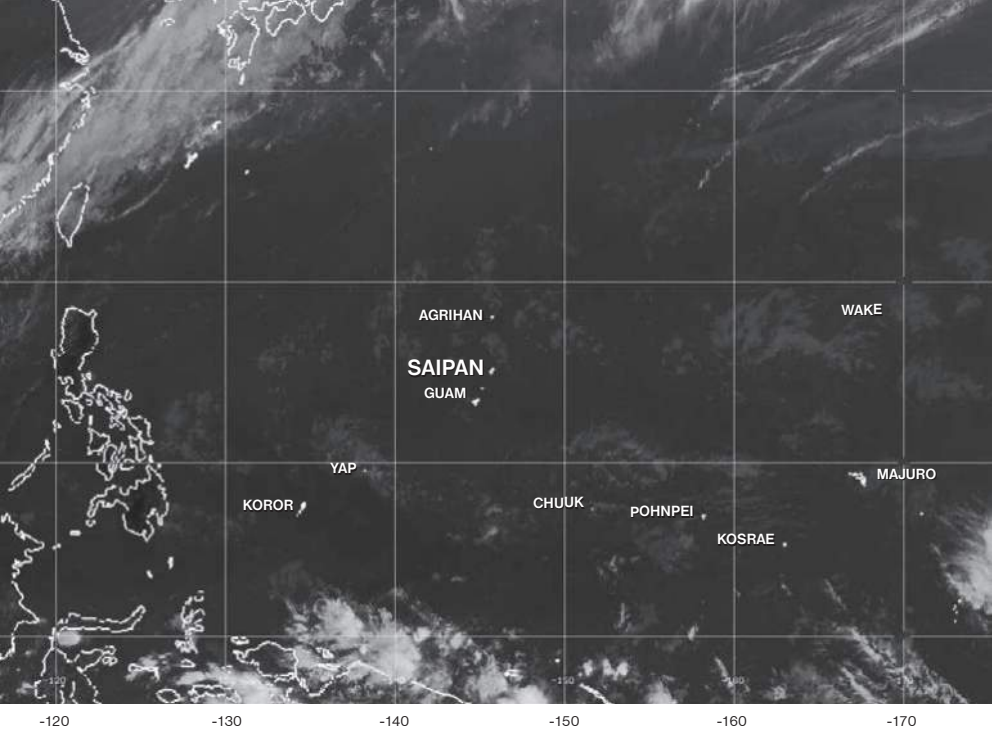
SATURDAY



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image




PICTURE TIME: 12:00 PM, MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers associated with a trade wind disturbance are occurring southeast of the Marshall Islands within 140 miles of a line from 2N174E to 6N180. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers near Yap within 70 miles of 10N139E and south of Koror south of a line from 2N134E to 1N143E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 89	▼ 78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91	▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86	▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 88	▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼ 80

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71	▼ 58
Beijing	Showers	▲ 61	▼ 46
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 77	▼ 72
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 69
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 57	▼ 43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 87	▼ 60
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 95	▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82	▼ 61
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81	▼ 68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 57
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 69	▼ 47
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61	▼ 43
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 66	▼ 48
Rome	Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 54
Salem	Sunny	▲ 85	▼ 52
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 77	▼ 55
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 65	▼ 45
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68	▼ 50
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 83	▼ 58



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PAPA) on any telephone

■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
12:57 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
7:11 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:40 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
7:26 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	6:00 AM	6:32 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:32 PM
Friday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	4:16 PM	4:00 AM
Wednesday	5:03 PM	4:38 AM
Thursday	5:50 PM	5:16 AM
Friday	6:37 PM	5:55 AM
Saturday	7:25 PM	6:34 AM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2016														
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS								
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN								
UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily					
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily			UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily					
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota			UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7					
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6			UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota					
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily			UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily					
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily			UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)								
UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN								
UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6					
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN								
DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily					
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN								
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1			7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily					
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7					
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily			OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6					
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily			OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily					
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily			7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily					
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN								
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6					
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN								
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7					
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN								
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	3, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6					
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN								
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5					
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN								
OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM					
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			UA190/2927	10:00am	5:35pm	3 via GUM					
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	Daily via GUM			UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM					
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN					
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN					
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR			OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN					
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM			PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM					
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA192/2925	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota					
UA2921/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM			UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota					
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA192/2927	10:20pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota					
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA192/2929	10:20pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota					
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR			UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2928/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota					
UA2928/193	6:05pm	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM			UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM					
UA2926/191	9:50pm	9:00am+1	3, 6 via GUM			UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM					
						UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota					
						UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM					
						UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM					
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN								
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN					
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN					
OZ626/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN			OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN					
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM			UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM					
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM			UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota					
						UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					
						UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM					

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.								
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			SAIPAN TO TINIAN			SAIPAN TO ROTA		
DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL				

66 students inducted into Mt. Carmel School's honor societies

Last week, 66 students were inducted into Mount Carmel School's following honor societies: the Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS), the Immaculate Conception Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS), and the Father Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS).

It is also noteworthy that this was the 20th anniversary of the school's Sacred Heart Chapter of the NHS, which was founded by then school president and the late Kathleen Sarmiento.

Apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Father Ryan Jimenez, was on hand to help celebrate the special occasion. He also opened the induction ceremony with a prayer and a blessing of the candles representing the values of the honor societies.

Soon after Fr. Ryan's blessing, current NHS students explained the respective values of the honor societies. For the NHS, those values are scholarship, service, leadership, and character. The NJHS shares the same values as the NHS, with one additional value, citizenship. As for the NEHS, its values are scholarship, responsibility, leadership, and service. Students who have a 3.0 GPA fulfill the scholarship value of each society and are invited to apply for membership, for which they must

demonstrate that they embody the other values of each respective society.

After the honor societies' were explained, inductees were identified by the ceremonial "tapping" ritual, in which current honor society members go around tapping inductees on their shoulders and inviting them to the main staging area to take their oaths, receive their membership insignia, and sign into the membership ledger.

After all new members were inducted, school president Galvin Deleon Guerrero gave the closing remarks. In

his remarks, Deleon Guerrero reminded all inductees that they must remember to uphold the values of their societies by continuing to honor their commitment and continuing to be honorable.

Inductees into the Sacred Heart Chapter of the NHS

- Amog, Quinn
- Camacho, Eligiah
- Castro, JoseDeleon
- Guerrero, Lance
- Han, Ya
- Melchor, Jeff
- Palacios, Michelle
- Takahashi, Mikiya

- Toskas, Jonelle
- Usi, Monica
- Zheng, Theresa

Inductees into the Immaculate Conception Chapter of the NJHS

- Aldave, Lynette
- Alvarez, Robin
- Ano, William
- Avendano-Woodruff,
- Katherine
- Bachani, Tanisha
- Bucalig, Fiona
- Chong, Kevin D.
- Combinido, Jewel
- Diaz, Jeremiah
- Duenas, Monique
- Galang, Aldraine
- Guerrero, Christian
- Hunter, Brandee
- Kang, Kevin
- Mafnas, Christopher

- Mallari, Vaughn
- Mendiola, Alleah
- Muna, Devon
- Propst, Kiana
- Sablan, Penelope
- Sablan, Vidal
- Sato, Maaya
- Steele, Richard
- Tenorio, Joshua
- Torres III, Vincent
- Travilla, Kaia
- Villar, Jetric

Inductees into the Father Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the NEHS

- Ano, Natalie
- Bang, Leo
- Blanco, Elisa
- Bocago, Ranasia
- Borja, O'hane
- Buensalido, Angel
- Dayrit, Jenarisa
- Dela Cruz, L'wina
- Deleon Guerrero, Lerlyma
- Delon Guerrero, Leland
- Diaz, Carlo
- Doronila, Kyle
- Gamab, Gwen
- Guerrero, Ruben
- Jung, Minki
- Mafnas, Breanna
- Palacios, Ryona
- Propst, Devin
- Sablan, Andrew
- San Nicolas, Earle
- Sulyman, Shamira
- Takayama, Lezandra
- Tasi, Siana
- Tolentino, Leyonne
- Torres, Maria
- Villegas, Miguel
- Valiente, Jhazmyn (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Inductees into the Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Honor Society prepare to take their oaths of membership.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Inductees into the Immaculate Conception Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society take their oaths of membership.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Inductees into the Father Arnold Bendowski Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society take their oaths of membership.

Coast Guard rescues mariner from vessel taking on water off Niihau

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard rescued a 64-year-old man from a vessel taking on water six miles east of Niihau, Saturday.

A 45-foot Response Boat-Medium crew from Coast Guard Station Kauai towed the 33-foot fishing vessel safely to Port Allen after it was located by an HC-130 Hercules airplane crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point.

At 10:02 a.m., watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Honolulu received a radio call via VHF-FM Channel 16 from the master of the fishing vessel reporting it was taking on water due to a leak in the bilge.

The Hercules crew located the vessel at 11 a.m. approximately five miles east of Niihau and vectored in the RB-M crew who arrived on scene at 11:55 p.m.

The mariner did not require medical attention.

Weather conditions on scene at the time of the tow were reportedly 23 mph winds and seas up to 6 feet. (PR)

Bridge Investment Group donates to BAT basketball clinic

SAN JOSE, Tinian—The Tinian Bikers Association organized a basketball league composed of talented young men and women. The league is known as BAT for BAD, which stands for Bikers Association of Tinian for Ballers against Drugs.

The group is divided into four teams and a coach assigned to each team. The leading coordinator, Dawn Sarmiento along with the BAT members, took it upon themselves to volunteer their time to share their skill and knowledge about the sport and the importance of staying physically fit. The basketball games are ongoing at the public gym a couple times a week along with scheduled practices in between games.

Bridge Investment Group made a monetary donation of \$1,109 to the Tinian Bikers Association to support their efforts. The funds will be used for basic necessities to operate the clinic/league such as the purchase of basketball equipment, uniforms, and trophies. With the help and continued support from the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, coach Leo Pascua, Bridge Investment Group staffer Joe Raymond Manglona, coach Richard Lazaro, BIG administrative staffer Melanie Cruz, BIG chair Jacky Meng, BIG administrative staffer Rochelle Cruz, coach Dawn Sarmiento, Ian Pascua, Romy Libut, Andy Cacabelos, and the BAT basketball team pose for a photo before the game.

parents and the community and the cooperation of BAT members, Sarmiento hopes to have this clinic/league annually or semi-annually.

"It's my love for the sport! During the last men's league,

I observed and learned that there are many kids that also love and are interested in playing and learning more which basically led me to the idea of a basketball clinic that also includes the league. You

see, my thought is that just because I can no longer play the sport, it doesn't mean I can no longer be involved and what better way than to share my skills and knowledge with our youth, our kids," said

Sarmiento.

The community needs more volunteers to take proactive approaches in molding our children and BIG is honored and grateful to be a partner in these endeavors. (PR)

Business

Oil meeting in Qatar collapses without freeze as Iran absent

DOHA, Qatar (AP)—A meeting of oil-rich countries in Qatar that had been expected to boost crude prices by freezing production fell apart Sunday as Iran stayed home and vowed to increase its output despite threats by Saudi Arabia.

Oil prices, which hit a 12-year low in January by dipping under \$30 a barrel, had risen above \$40 in recent days, buoyed by the bullish talks surrounding the Doha summit.

But instead of a quick approval of a production freeze, the meeting of 18 oil-producing nations saw hours of debate and resembled the dysfunction of an unsuccessful meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in December that sent oil prices tumbling.

Crude oil prices have taken a hit from the failure of oil-rich countries to reach an agreement Sunday on freezing production.

U.S. crude oil fell \$2.20 to \$38.16 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange, down 5.5 percent early Monday in Asia. It sank to a low of \$37.61 a barrel, down 6.8



Mohammed bin Saleh al-Sada, Qatar's energy and industry minister, addresses journalists at the end of a summit in Doha, Qatar, on Sunday, April 17, 2016.

percent before regaining some of that loss.

Brent crude oil, which is used to price international crude oil, fell \$2.23 to \$40.87 a barrel early Monday, down 5.1 percent. It tumbled 7 percent in earlier trading.

The effort to reach an accord on freezing production to support prices failed after Iran stayed away from a weekend meeting of 18 oil

producing nations in Qatar that had been expected to boost crude prices.

"The market basically rallied from \$26.05 to levels above \$40 on the 'hope' that there would be some kind of agreement at Doha. That did not happen," said Robert Yawger, director of energy futures at Mizuho Securities USA.

The fact that producers couldn't agree to a freeze, let alone a production cut, likely means oil prices will drop again as markets open Monday.

"Prices will trade lower. Maybe sharply lower," said Robert Yawger, director of energy futures at Mizuho Securities USA, noting the failure to reach agreement in Doha.

He noted that other factors

Disruptions from twin quakes in southern Japan hit economy

TOKYO (AP)—The twin earthquakes that have paralyzed parts of southern Japan are having ripple effects far beyond the disaster zone, with automakers and other manufacturers suspending output in other areas due to disruptions in its parts supplies.

Toyota Motor Corp. says it has stopped production at a factory in Kyushu, where the quakes struck late Thursday and early Saturday, killing at least 42 people and leaving nearly 1,100 people injured.

The shutdown will progress to other plants in Japan through Friday. Output will resume depending on the availability of parts.

Honda Motor Corp. said production at its factory in Kumamoto, the largest city seriously affected by the quakes, would be suspended until Friday.

"Subsequent production plans will be determined according to facility restorations and component supply," the company said in a statement.

The powerful earthquakes have caused electricity outages and disruptions to water supplies. Roads and airports in the region were affected, with some damaged areas in hard-to-reach mountain areas cut off by

landslides that blocked roads and bridges.

Supply chain disruptions will hurt output by various manufacturers, including Toyota, which is cutting its output in Japan by 50,000 in April, according to the financial newspaper Nikkei, or about 8 percent of total production. Tourism will also

take a big hit.

"The impact to near-term economic activity looks inevitable, while the comprehensive picture is difficult to gauge now, particularly due to the continued aftershocks," Masamichi Adachi of J.P.Morgan said in a commentary. Overall, the risk to the outlook for growth is "to

the downside" he said.

Some of the worst affected areas are deep in the mountains surrounding Mount Aso, Japan's largest active volcano, an area renowned for dairy farming. But one of the hardest hit cities was Mashiki, a center for semiconductor fabrication and other manufacturing.

World Bank urges donors to fulfill Gaza pledges

JERUSALEM (AP)—After Israel's war against Gaza militants in 2014, Arab countries led the way in pledging reconstruction aid to the devastated seaside enclave. But a new report released Monday by the World Bank shows that Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and other Arab donors have delivered only a small fraction of what was promised.

The World Bank released its report a day before a gathering of international donor countries in Brussels, sending the meeting a stark message that donations are well behind the schedule set when pledges were made at an international conference in October 2014.

"Actual disbursements fall short of planned disbursements by around \$1.3 billion, and hence, donors are urged to accelerate the disbursement of funds," the report said. If do-

nor funding continues at the current pace, it added, pledges are expected to be complete by mid-2019, some two years behind schedule.

Israel launched the war in July 2014 in what it said was a campaign to halt heavy rocket fire from the territory, which is ruled by the Islamic militant group Hamas. During 50 days of fighting, more than 2,200 Palestinians were killed, over half of them civilians, according to U.N. and Palestinian estimates. Seventy-three people, including six civilians, were killed on the Israeli side.

The fighting also inflicted heavy damage on Gaza, damaging or destroying some 171,000 homes, according to U.N. figures. The Palestinians say 75,000 people remain homeless. Israel says Hamas is responsible for the damage, noting the group used residen-

tial neighborhoods for cover as it fired rockets, triggering Israeli retaliation.

At the 2014 conference in Cairo, the international community pledged some \$3.51 billion in aid over three years to rebuild Gaza. According to Monday's report, \$1.41 billion has been delivered, compared to \$2.71 billion that should have arrived based on the original schedule.

Qatar led the list of donors in 2014, pledging \$1 billion. The energy-rich country's foreign minister at the time, Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah, denounced the "international silence" that surrounded Gaza's destruction.

"While the Palestinian people need financial support, they need more political support from the international community," he said at the time.

were negatively impacting Iran increasing production, prices: U.S. crude oil storage and Libya looming on the horizon to boost output.

Cubicle-dweller wants private office

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE

Tribune News Service



Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics." Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.your-officecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.

Q: Most of our employees work in cubicles, with offices being reserved for managers and team leads. While I am not technically considered a manager, I believe I deserve an office because I oversee a very important project. I have mentioned this to my boss several times.

I am currently upset about an office that was given to a newly hired employee. "Nancy" came in as a team lead but was temporarily assigned to my project because she has certain specialized skills. In a few months, when that project phase is complete, she will move into her team lead role.

Although Nancy is working under my direction, she has an office, while I'm still in a cubicle. I would like to confront my boss about this blatant unfairness, but I'm afraid he would view that as whining. What should I do about this?

A: First, you need to recognize that these are two separate issues. One is whether your leadership role entitles you to an office. Another is whether newcomer Nancy should be placed in a cube. The second question is much more easily answered than the first.

Despite her temporary assignment, Nancy officially holds a team lead position and will fully assume that role in the near future. Since team leads are given offices, parking her in a cubicle for several months just to appease your ego makes absolutely no sense.

Your own eligibility is more complicated. Lacking an automatic office position, you must convince the higher-ups that your job has equivalent responsibilities. One common justification for private space is the need to have confidential conversations, so emphasizing that aspect might help.

To avoid the whiner label, present your case in a calm, businesslike manner without any emotional speeches about unfairness. If your request is denied, accept that decision in the same spirit. Otherwise, if you act like a petulant child, you could remain a cube dweller for a very long time.

Q: Despite having a master's degree in education, I am looking for a sales position in a craft shop. Several years ago, after becoming acquainted with the store manager, I did this type of work for 18 months. I thoroughly enjoyed helping customers with projects and left only because we moved away.

Now, after submitting numerous online applications, I still haven't received a single request for an interview. I believe I'm being screened out because of my graduate degree. Since I obviously can't lie about my education, how do I overcome this hurdle?

A: There's a big difference between falsifying a degree and omitting one. As an applicant, you should include any background information which is applicable to the position you are seeking. But since a master's in education has absolutely no relevance to craft store sales, you can simply leave it off.

As your last job proved, however, personal contact is still the best way to get hired. So in addition to applying online, hand-deliver your resume to nearby stores and have a friendly chat with the manager. Your enthusiasm for the work and charming sales personality will make a much stronger impression than any application form.

Nation

Trump's rants risk annoying those who may decide nomination

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Donald Trump's relentless assault on the rules that govern how Republicans choose their nominee is coming far too late to change what even defenders acknowledge is a complicated selection system.

He seems to know it, too.

Instead, his railing against a "rigged" process appears aimed at amplifying his central message to an angry electorate: America is a mess, and only Trump can clean it up.

In the Wall Street Journal Friday, he equated the party's nomination procedures with the "unfair trade, immigration and economic policies that have also been rigged against Americans."

He added, "Let me ask America a question: How has the 'system' been working out for you and your family?"

Underlying the constant

criticism, Trump's goal is to rally supporters and pile up primary season victories that would bring him the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination outright before the summer convention. But it's a tactic that Republicans say carries real risks for the billionaire businessman.

Should Trump fall short of that clinching number going into the Cleveland convention in July, they said, his rantings against the party are likely to annoy the delegates who would then decide the nominee.

"He is trying to pit voters against the very people who make the decision of whether he gets the nomination," said Matt Borges, chairman of the Republican Party in Ohio. "If he does not arrive in Cleveland with 1,237 pledged delegates, then there is no way he gets the nomination."



In this March 31, 2016, file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump waves as he gets into his vehicle in Washington following a meeting at the Republican National Committee.

Trump says he has all the tools he needs to assuage any annoyed delegates.

"Nobody has better toys than I do," Trump told attendees Sunday at a Staten Island GOP county brunch.

"I can fly (delegates) on the best planes and take them to the best resorts around," including his private club in Florida, Mar-a-Lago. "You're

basically buying these people. You're basically saying, 'Delegates, listen we're going to send you to Mar-a-Lago on a Boeing 757, you're going to use the spa, you're going to this, you're going to that.' That's a corrupt system. That's not a democracy."

Trump's tirades have aired the backroom tension with the party. But GOP officials are

pushing against the front-runner accusations of unfairness.

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus took to Trump's favorite medium, Twitter, to make the point that the nomination process has been known to all for more than a year.

"It's the responsibility of the campaigns to understand it," Priebus wrote. "Complaints

now? Give us all a break."

Priebus told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday that he will not allow Trump to bully him, and noted that a majority - not a plurality - rules in most aspects of governance. "The rules are set. ... I'm not going to allow anyone to rewrite rules for the party."

On Friday, the party's chief strategist, Sean Spicer, laid out the rules for elected delegates in each of the remaining states that will hold primary contests.

Spicer noted those rules were shared with all the campaigns last year, adding that "each process is easy to understand for those willing to learn it."

At the same time, however, party insiders who make the rules appear keenly aware of the emotions that Trump is stirring.

At a rally this past week in New York, Trump said RNC members "should be ashamed of themselves for allowing this crap."

Several of those involved in the rule-making process told The Associated Press that they believe there's a consensus inside the party against considering changes before the convention.

ACROSS THE NATION

California student says airline removed him for Arabic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A University of California, Berkeley student who came to the U.S. as an Iraqi refugee says he was unfairly removed from a flight at Los Angeles International Airport earlier this month because a fellow passenger was alarmed by an innocent conversation he was having in Arabic. Southwest Airlines said in a statement Sunday that the passenger, Khairuldeen Makhzoomi, was taken off the April 9 flight from Los Angeles to Oakland, California, for questioning and the plane took off while that was happening. But the airline said it has not received a direct complaint from Makhzoomi, and he has not responded to several attempts to reach him. Makhzoomi, a 26-year-old senior at UC Berkeley, said that he was calling his uncle before the flight to tell him about a speech he had attended by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Medical pot activists fear epilepsy drug could undercut them

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—An experimental epilepsy drug made from cannabis plants grown in England is complicating the medical marijuana debate in hospitals and statehouses. Epidiolex is a nearly pure extract of cannabidiol, or CBD, with little of the tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, that gets traditional pot users high. CBD products are the current rage in medicinal

pot products, and activists fear that if the maker of Epidiolex manages to get FDA approval it could undercut the political momentum of the medical marijuana movement. Anup Patel, a pediatric neurologist who oversees Epidiolex (pronounced eh'-pih-DYE'-uh-lehx) clinical trials at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, insists the drug contains the optimal known marijuana compound for treating seizures. He cited a study that found children can be hurt by using the whole plant.

Authorities believe missing Washington couple was killed

ARLINGTON, Wash. (AP)—Authorities say they now believe a couple missing from Arlington, Washington has been killed. They are asking for the public's help in tracking two suspects, John and Patrick Reed. Detectives in Snohomish County have tied the brothers to the disposal of the missing couple's two vehicles. The search for Patrick Shunn and his wife, Monique Patenaude, began after their vehicles were found in a wooded area of Oso on Thursday. Snohomish County Sheriff Ty Trenary says the two families lived nearby and were involved in some kind of property dispute. He says anyone who has seen either of the Reed brothers should call 911 and not approach them. They are considered armed and dangerous. Authorities found a vehicle that belongs to John Reed in Ellensburg on Saturday but the suspects' current location is unknown.

NYC listing of potentially violent mentally ill stirs qualms

NEW YORK (AP)—When a homeless man was taken for a psychiatric evaluation because he argued with shelter police, doctors found no reason to commit him. Then City Hall stepped in.

At the urging of a mayoral aide who cited a new city program to monitor mentally ill people considered potentially violent, the man was involuntarily hospitalized for a week. A judge finally ordered his release, ruling that the man's commitment violated his civil rights and that bureaucrats had meddled in his medical treatment.

The case crystallizes the

unease that has surrounded the NYC Safe program since Mayor Bill de Blasio launched it last summer after some high-profile attacks raised alarm about the mentally ill.

The program—apparently unique among American cities—keeps tabs on a roster of people with psychiatric problems and a history of violence, hoping to help them before they reach a breaking point.

So far, NYC Safe is monitoring more than 100 people, more than half of whom are in jail, prison or a locked hospital ward. City officials say administration policy is not to divulge

who is on the list, though they say those on it are told.

Civil liberties and mental health advocates are concerned about the potential for infringements on liberty and privacy abuses as officials share sensitive information about people among various city agencies.

According to a city memo obtained by The Associated Press, homeless shelters refer people to the list based on standards as broad as escalating "aggressive and alarming" conduct. In other cases, mayoral aides simply pick cases from crime stories in newspapers. And there's not yet a

mechanism for people to get off the list once they're on it.

"Politics is interjected into this difficult decision of who's a danger to themselves and others," said Norman Siegel, former director of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

City officials say they never should have interfered in clinical decisions. While they will continue tracking certain people, they now plan to expand their effort via data analysis, to spot patterns of when troubled people get to the edge of violence—perhaps within a certain amount of time after getting out of jail or a hospital.

State proposals on LGBT rights push business into spotlight

ATLANTA (AP)—Major corporations invested in Southern states have become some of the staunchest opponents of bills they consider discriminatory, facing off against Republican lawmakers eager to portray their states as the best home for global brands.

The NFL, Apple and other behemoths have cajoled Republicans into rejecting or softening bills in recent years that supporters say protect people who oppose same-sex marriage on religious grounds. Companies are speaking up loudly again this year in states where such bills have been

proposed as part of a backlash to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized gay marriage.

"As a company that is committed to the principle that everyone deserves to live without fear of discrimination simply for being who they are, becoming an employer in North Carolina, where members of our teams will not have equal rights under the law, is simply untenable," California-based PayPal CEO Dan Schulman said in a statement last week ending plans to hire 400 people for a new operations center

in Charlotte. The decision is among the largest tangible effects of a new North Carolina law overruling LGBT anti-discrimination measures passed by local governments.

Watchers of corporate America's approach to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues said such public statements are only one way companies have been supportive, pointing to several years of efforts to win over LGBT employees and customers.

CEOs sometimes take the lead, as in 2013 when Starbucks CEO Howard Schultz

told a shareholder who believed the company's pro-gay marriage position hurt profits: "Not every decision is an economic decision." Some companies have gone beyond what's required by state or federal law for equal employment policies and benefits. The Corporate Equality Index survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign, which has graded companies' environment for LGBT employees since 2002, gave 13 companies a perfect score that first year. This year's survey reported 407 companies hit that mark.

Asia

US forces aid Japan quake rescue, aid

MINAMIASO, Japan (AP)—The U.S. military joined relief efforts Monday in southern Japan for areas devastated by two powerful earthquakes as local rescuers combed through debris looking for 10 people still reported missing.

Authorities said at least 42 people had died and nearly 1,100 were injured in the two quakes that hit the region near Kumamoto city late Thursday and early Sunday.

Rescuers were redoubling search efforts on the southern island of Kyushu, where many areas were cut off by landslides and road and bridge damage. Forecasts for heavy rains, which would make land and collapsed buildings even more unstable, added to the urgency.

A U.S. Army UC-35 aircraft landed Monday at a Japanese military base near Kumamoto. Nine people died in the first, magnitude 6.4 earthquake, and 33 in the second quake, which registered 7.1, revised from an initial reading of 7.3.

"There are still missing people, so with the help of the U.S. forces, we would like for



Col. Masahiro Sugawara, Joint Staff Council of Japan Self Defense Force, right, speaks with Maj. Jack E. Beene of U.S. Air Force, center, as Maj. Jacqueline Hearne, U.S. Army PAO, left, looks on upon Sugawara's arrival at the Japan Ground Self Defense Force Vice-Camp Takayubaru in Mashiki, Kumamoto prefecture Japan, Monday, April 18, 2016.

the operations to go into effect as quickly and smoothly as possible," said Col. Masahiro Sugawara of the Joint Staff Council of Japan's self-defense force.

The U.S. side, whose Air Force, Navy and Marine bases are home to about 50,000 troops in Japan, was to provide aerial support from other regions the effort to feed and care for tens of thousands of

people seeking shelter. The American military played a large role in rescue and relief during the March 2011 tsunami and earthquake disasters in northeastern Japan.

This time, Japan asked for help with airlifts into the area, said Jacqueline Hearne, a public affairs officer for the U.S. Army. "We're glad that we're able to support in any way the Japanese government needs us."

S. Korea says North is preparing for 5th nuclear test

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president said Monday that there are signs that North Korea is preparing for a fifth nuclear bomb test amid reports of increased activity at the country's main nuclear test site.

In a regular meeting with her top adviser, President Park Geun-hye said that North Korea could carry out such a test to try to bolster morale as the country deals with tough international sanctions imposed after it conducted a fourth nuclear test and a long-range rocket launch earlier this year.

Park didn't elaborate on what signs pointed to another nuclear test, but ordered the military to be ready to deal with any provocation by

Pyongyang, according to media pool reports on the first part of the meeting posted on the website of her office.

Speculation about a fifth nuclear test increased last month when the North's state media cited leader Kim Jong Un as ordering a test of a nuclear warhead and ballistic missiles capable of carrying warheads.

Kim's order came amid rising animosity with South Korea and the United States over their annual military drills that North Korea describes as an invasion rehearsal. The drills are set to run until next week.

Analysts say an atomic test could happen before North Korea holds a landmark ruling Workers' Party congress in early May so that Kim can

burnish his image as a powerful leader at home and further cement his grip on power.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Monday that South Korean and U.S. authorities detected two to three times more vehicle and personnel activities than normal this month at the North's northeast Punggye-ri nuclear test site - where all previous four bomb tests took place.

A U.S. website that monitors sensitive sites in North Korea said Friday that it saw further signs from satellite imagery that the North was looking to produce more plutonium for nuclear weapons at its main Nyongbyon nuclear complex, north of Pyongyang.

World

In quake-devastated Ecuador, loss piles up amid the rubble

PORTOVIEJO, Ecuador (AP)—It was supposed to be a family reunion to celebrate a young relative's start of college. But the gathering ended in tragedy when a collapsing building crushed 17-year-old Sayira Quinde, her mother, father and toddler brother in their rusting Chevy Blazer.

A grief stricken aunt, Johana Estupinan, now is making the longest journey of her life in a funeral hearse to the town of Esmeraldas, where she will bury her loved ones and break the news of the loss to her sister's three now orphaned children.

As Ecuador digs out from its strongest earthquake in decades, tales of devastating loss are everywhere amid the rubble. The 7.8-magnitude earthquake left a trail of ruin along Ecuador's normally placid Pacific Ocean coast, buckling highways, knocking down an

air traffic control tower and flattening homes and buildings. At least 272 people died, including two Canadians, and thousands are homeless.

President Rafael Correa said early Monday that the death toll would "surely rise, and in a considerable way."

"The Ecuadorean spirit knows how to move forward, and will know how to overcome these very difficult moments," Correa said.

Portoviejo, a provincial capital of nearly 300,000, was among the hardest hit, with the town's mayor reporting at least 100 deaths. The Quinde family drove there from their home hours north up the coast to drop off Sayira at Estupinan's house a week before she was to start classes at a public university on a scholarship to study medicine.

"She was my favorite

niece," Estupinan said, emotionally torn apart after waiting at the city's morgue for hours. "I thought I was getting a daughter for the six years it was going to take her to earn a degree."

"I never thought my life would be destroyed in a minute," she added.

Estupinan watched as her loved ones were loaded onto a truck-sized hearse for the nighttime drive, the three older ones in dark mahogany coffins and 8-month-old Matias in a casket painted white. "It was supposed to be a short moment of family happiness but it converted into a tragedy," she said.

She hoped to bury her relatives in Esmeraldas on Monday, but devastation there is also severe and she worried about whether the hearse could make it along roads torn apart by the quake.

Brazil lower house OKs impeaching president, sends to Senate

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—Brazil's lower house of Congress voted late Sunday to impeach President Dilma Rousseff, delivering a major blow to a long-embattled leader who repeatedly argued that the push against her was a "coup."

Rousseff is accused of using accounting tricks in managing the federal budget to maintain spending and shore up support. She has said previous presidents used similar maneuvers and stressed that she has not been charged with any crimes or implicated in any corruption scandals.

However, she failed to secure the support she needed, and more than the necessary two-thirds of lawmakers in

the Chamber of Deputies voted to oust her.

"What an honor destiny has reserved for me!" shouted Bruno Araujo, a member of Socialist Democratic Party, upon making the decisive "yes" vote. Both cheers and boos erupted as Araujo waved his arm in the air.

With at least 342 of 513 deputies voting in favor, the measure passed. Several lawmakers had yet to vote, so the final tally could be an even wider victory for the opposition.

The measure now goes to the Senate. If by a simple majority the Senate votes to take it up and put the president on trial, Rousseff will be temporarily suspended.

In that case, Vice President Michel Temer would take on the presidential duties and the Senate would have 180 days to conduct a trial against Rousseff. Senate leader Renan Calheiros has suggested his body would consider the measure within a month, but no date has been set.

Rousseff has options. She could appeal to the Supreme Federal Tribunal, Brazil's highest court, on the grounds that the accusations are faulty. She has hinted she might do so.

She could also heavily lobby senators and at the same time use the union muscle of her Worker's Party to bring thousands to the streets to pressure the Congress.

Carter arrives in Iraq for talks on how to beef up IS fight

BAGHDAD (AP)—Defense Secretary Ash Carter arrived in Baghdad Monday to talk to Iraqi leaders about beefing up Iraqi forces working to retake the northern city of Mosul, a critical goal in the effort to defeat the Islamic State group.

A senior U.S. official said that as the U.S. moves to help the Iraqis, it will also likely mean that at least a "small number" of additional American forces will go to the warzone.

Carter has said the U.S. is considering a number of options, including more airstrikes, cyberattacks and American troops on the ground.

Late last month, U.S. Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that he and Carter believe U.S. forces in Iraq

will increase in the coming weeks. Any final decision would be worked out with the Iraqi government and require President Barack Obama's approval.

Some of those decisions could become clearer in the coming days and weeks. Obama will be in Saudi Arabia later this week to meet with Gulf leaders and talk about the fight against the Islamic State group.

Carter has said the U.S. wants Persian Gulf nations to help Iraq rebuild its cities once IS militants are defeated.

The Islamic State group has established a key stronghold in Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, and retaking it from the militants is the key end game, according to the

U.S. official.

But U.S. military and defense officials also have made clear that winning back Mosul will be challenging, because the insurgents are dug in and have likely peppered the landscape with roadside bombs and other traps for any advancing military.

During his visit to Baghdad, Carter is slated to meet with Lt. Gen. Sean MacFarland, the top U.S. military commander for the Islamic State fight, as well as a number of Iraqi leaders including Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Defense Minister Khalid al-Obeidi.

He also is expected to speak by phone with the president of Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, Masoud Barzani.

ASIAN BRIEFS

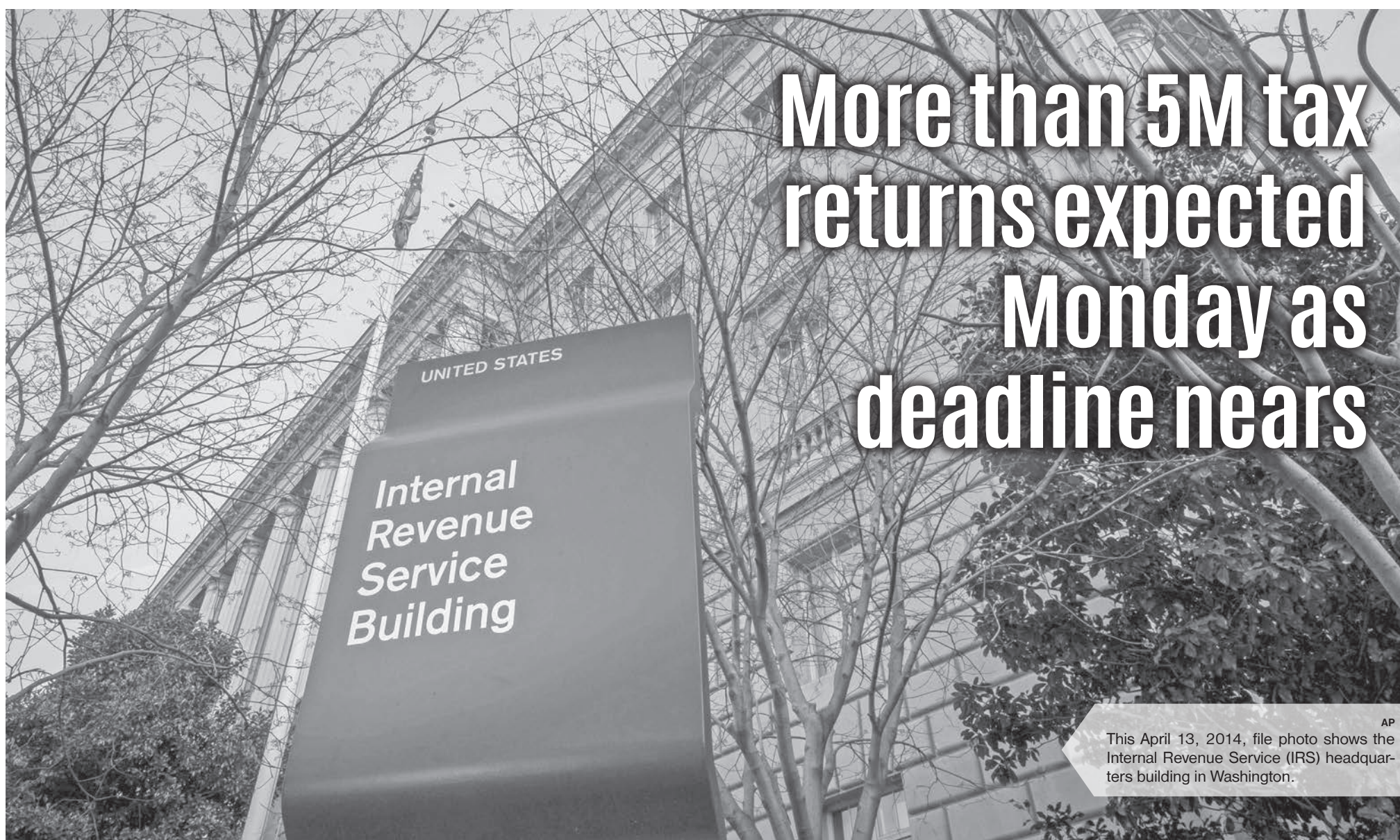
China dispatches military plane to disputed man-made island

BEIJING (AP)—China's Defense Ministry says a military plane was dispatched to one of China's new manmade islands in a disputed area of the South China Sea in what is believed to be the first openly acknowledged landing of its kind. A brief statement on the ministry's website said the plane flew to Fiery Cross Reef on Sunday morning to pick up a construction worker who was suffering abdominal bleeding along with two others who'd been injured. The plane then flew to Sanya on China's southernmost island province of Hainan where the three were taken to hospital. Details about the plane and where it was based were not given, although a photo accompanying the report showed a Y-8 propeller transport and patrol plane being met by an ambulance.

UN report: Afghan civilian deaths down, but more wounded

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The United Nations has reported 600 civilian deaths in Afghanistan's war in the first quarter of this year, a marked decline from the same period last year, but says the number of civilians wounded in combat has risen. The latest figures released by the U.N. mission on Sunday show 1,343 people were wounded during the first three months of 2016. Compared to the same period in 2015, civilian deaths are down by 13 percent but the number of wounded has risen by 11 percent. The U.N. report says the highest number of casualties resulted from civilians being harmed during ground fighting. It says intensified fighting in populated areas caused a nearly 30 percent increase in child casualties and a 5 percent increase in casualties among women.

Focus



More than 5M tax returns expected Monday as deadline nears

AP
This April 13, 2014, file photo shows the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) headquarters building in Washington.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Millions of taxpayers face a midnight deadline Monday to file their tax returns, while millions of others will ask for more time—a six-month extension. There was a three-day delay beyond the traditional April 15 deadline because Friday was a legal holiday in the District of Columbia.

Some things to know about taxes:

THANK YOU, EMANCIPATION DAY

The traditional April 15 filing deadline was extended because of Emancipation Day, a legal holiday in the nation's capital. The holiday commemorates President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the District of Columbia Compensated Emancipation Act in 1862. The act freed more than 3,000 enslaved people in the district and compensated their owners.

The Friday holiday moves the tax deadline to the next business day. In Massachusetts and Maine, taxpayers get one more day to file. The deadline there is Tuesday because Monday is a legal holiday, Patriots' Day, in both states. The holiday commemorates the first battles of the Revolutionary War in 1775.

When the federal deadline is moved back, state and local deadlines also move back to match it.

150 MILLION TAX RETURNS

The IRS expects millions of tax returns to be filed each day as the tax deadline approaches, with more than 5 million returns possible on Monday. More than 150 million tax returns are expected to be filed in 2016. As of April 8, almost 82 million refunds have been issued, the IRS said. The average refund amount was \$2,798.

For those who need more time to finish their returns, tax-filing extensions are available. The IRS reminds taxpayers that extensions grant more time to file returns, but do not extend time to pay. The IRS projects it will receive 13.5 million requests for extensions.

CONGRESS TARGETS IRS

The IRS is a favorite target of lawmakers from both parties who complain about the complexity of the tax code and accompanying regulations that span more than 70,000 pages. Instructions to complete IRS Form 1040—the main individual income-tax return—run more than 100 pages.

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., says the House will vote this week on a half-dozen bills to hold the IRS more accountable. "Fairness is our guide

and accountability is the goal as we try to make the IRS beholden to the American people," McCarthy said in a statement.

One bill would require the IRS to crack down on employees who are delinquent on their own taxes. According to the agency's inspector general, nearly 1,600 IRS employees have failed to pay their own taxes in the past decade.

The House also will consider legislation that blocks the IRS from rehiring employees who were already fired by the agency for misconduct. It will vote on bills to ban IRS employees from getting bonus payments until the agency puts in place a plan to improve customer service, and to block any IRS funding from being used to target citizens for political purposes.

The last bill is in response to complaints by Republicans that the tax agency unfairly treated conservative and tea party groups seeking tax-exempt status. The Justice Department said last fall that no IRS official will face criminal charges in the political controversy over the processing of applications by groups seeking tax-exempt status.

The fate of the bills in the Senate is uncertain.

IMPEACH IRS COMMISSIONER?

The House Oversight and



AP
In this photo taken Feb. 10, 2016, Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Commissioner John Koskinen testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Government Reform Committee has moved to impeach IRS Commissioner John Koskinen, but a full vote has not been taken in the House.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., stopped short of backing impeachment. The IRS "is an agency that needs to be cleaned up," Ryan said at a news conference last week. But instead of impeachment, Republicans need to win the presidential election to "get better people in these agencies and reform the tax code so we're not harassing the average taxpayer with a tax code that they can't even under-

stand," Ryan said.

CYBERSECURITY

Ryan and other Republicans also criticize the IRS for failing to secure sensitive taxpayer data. They cite an inspector general's report that identifies "significant security weaknesses that could affect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of financial and sensitive taxpayer data."

Koskinen told a House Science, Space and Technology subcommittee last week that securing taxpayer data continues to be a top prior-

ity. The IRS withstands more than one million malicious attempts to access its data each day, Koskinen said, and is stepping up efforts to combat identity theft.

Even so, the problem is growing. What used to be limited to individuals filing a few dozen or a few hundred false tax returns now is often the work of organized crime syndicates in the U.S. and other countries, Koskinen said. The agency has "a delicate balance" to maintain, he said: "We need to keep the criminals out, while letting legitimate taxpayers in."

Overdrive

The Hyundai Elantra compact has been known for doing more with less on the dollar. The outgoing model won North American Car of the Year in 2012, arguably the industry's most independent and esteemed new-car honor, for being more luxurious, more fuel efficient and more versatile and roomier than a compact should at under \$20,000.

The fully redesigned 2017 model pushes advanced technology but it also pushes the price tag at a time when the compact segment has never been better. The base model is a bit cheaper than the outgoing model at \$17,150, but the top-of-the-line Limited trim is \$650 more than 2016, starting at \$22,350. It's less expensive than the winning 2016 Honda Civic Touring, and the performance-leaning 2015 Volkswagen Golf. And it's loaded with everything from heated front seats to blind spot detection and a worry-free suite of warranties.

The sixth-generation Elantra looks more advanced on the outside as well. It sports Hyundai's big hexagonal grille and vertical daytime running lights similar to the Toyota Avalon, which along with new high-intensity headlights and standard 17-inch alloy wheels make the Elantra's extra inch of width and length look brawnier and more filled out.

It doesn't look small on the outside or inside. It has enough interior volume to be classified as a midsize sedan based on the EPA, but don't let that fool you; so does the redesigned 2016 Honda Civic



The 2017 Hyundai Elantra is a good value, offering sophisticated looks as well as a lot of space and features for the money.

TNS

Auto review: 2017 Hyundai Elantra packs more tech than the compact competition

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

and the 2016 Toyota Corolla.

Like the new Civic, four adults can fit comfortably and there is ample trunk space for a hockey bag, baseball gear and groceries.

For driving feel, the Elantra has a tough time competing with the Golf, Civic and Mazda3. The Elantra's new 2.0-liter dual-overhead camshaft four-cylinder engine works hard to make 147 horsepower and a pokey 132 pound-feet of torque. In sport mode, those

NUTS & BOLTS

PROS&CONS

2017 Hyundai Elantra Limited at a glance:

- **Vehicle type:** Compact sedan
- **Base price:** \$22,350
- **As tested:** \$26,875 (excluding \$835 delivery)
- **Mpg:** 28 city, 37 highway
- **Engine:** 2.0-liter four-cylinder
- **Transmission:** six-speed auto with Shiftronic
- **Parting shot:** One of the best-valued compacts gets more tech, costs more.

dual cams let the engine rev to 6,000 and 7,000 rpm before the new six-speed automatic transmission kicks in.

Sport mode is fun but not as fun as the fuel economy gains of more than 2 percent, thanks in part to the powertrain and the use of more lightweight high strength steel. It's more rigid, making the ride quieter, but in everyday driving we didn't notice any great improvements to handling.

Most drivers will notice fuel economy more, and the Elantra scored big with 45.3 mpg averaged over a few commutes at a 43 mph sweet spot,

evidently. The EPA estimate is 37 mpg highway.

The 2017 Elantra beats the Civic and Golf in the driver's main source of interaction, the connected car cockpit.

The tester came with the tech package, which includes navigation and an 8-inch touch screen that is one of the better ones at this price point (especially compared with the Civic). Buttons and knobs complement the touch screen in a center-stack design that is conventionally familiar but not out-of-date. Consumers who are used to the classical console design and daunted by some of the botched newfangled attempts at simplification will appreciate it. Hyundai's redundant steering wheel controls use toggles in the middle for volume and tuning, with buttons on top and bottom. Thumbs used to texting or video game controllers will pick it up intuitively, while less-evolved users should be pleased that the fingers never leave the steering wheel.

For \$2,500, the tech package includes other goodies, including power sunroof, heated rear seats, a better sound system and Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

It's a pretty good deal for shoppers that see connected-car tech as a key convenience, and a distinct advantage over the Civic and Golf in a class packed with capable competitors.

Robert Duffer is the editor of the Chicago's Tribune's auto section. Readers may contact him at Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fifth Floor, Chicago IL 60611 or rduffer@tribpub.com.

Motoring : Why does my Chevy keep powering down?

By PAUL BRAND
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Q The computer of my 2008 Chevy Impala 3500 V-6 says, "Engine power down" and then dings. The engine light goes on. The engine powers down. Then it goes away in 15 minutes, but the engine light stays on and goes out the next day. I clean the gas cap and make sure it's on tight and put Seafoam in the gas tank; 400 miles later the computer says again, "Engine power down" and then dings. The engine light goes on, but the engine does not power down. The next day the engine light goes out—300 miles it does it again, same as the second time. What can I do to correct this behavior?

A I checked my automotive database and found GM service bulletin 14582A: Special coverage adjustment—throttle body—reduced power mode, dated October 2015. If a scan tool check pulls up fault codes DTC P2135, P0121 or P0221, the throttle body needs to be replaced. Bosch throttle bodies need to be replaced as a complete unit whereas Hitachi throttle bodies may need only a throttle position sensor kit. GM issued an extended warranty covering this repair for 10 years or 120,000 miles from the date the vehicle was originally placed in service, regardless of ownership changes.

If fault code DTC P2135 is recorded in computer memory, a thorough cleaning of the throttle body and replacement of the TPS cover may solve the problem.

Another possibility for the same symptom, according to service bulletin 07-06-04-019E, is water intrusion into the instrument panel body harness connector to the electronic control module/power control module. A check for DTC P2138, a throttle pedal position sensor fault, would confirm this problem.

Q When my dad died at 93 in 2009, I purchased his mint condition 2002 Buick LeSabre and have kept it "pristine" in his honor. It now has 171,000 miles and is simply wearing out. I have replaced axles and torn axle "boots" at least five times in the past seven years. Do any of your repair data bases—or from your own experience—deal with causation of these frequent axle and "boot" repairs?

A The environment you live in—Minnesota—with its salt-encrusted snowy roads in winter, increases the stress on the rubber "boots" surrounding the constant-velocity joints on front-drive axles. Stiff boots in subfreezing weather are more likely to crack, allowing the escape of grease and intrusion of water, dirt and salt, leading to shorter life expectancy for the CV joint/axle. Other factors could include lesser quality aftermarket replacement boots and/or poor installation.

After suffering through the nasty, greasy, difficult knuckle-busting bondage of replacing torn boots on several axles, I decided to make the job easier, faster and less messy by replacing the drive axle assembly with a quality "reman" unit.

Q I'm looking at buying a used Ford Explorer. Rumor has it the water pump is inside the engine and is very expensive to fix. Is this true?

A Between the 2010 and 2011 model years, Ford changed from the 4-liter V-6 to a 3.5-liter V-6 engine. While the 4-liter is fitted with a conventional belt-driven front mounted water pump, the newer 3.5-liter engine has an internally mounted, timing chain-driven water pump requiring significant time and expense to replace. The "book" labor rate for this repair is 10.8 hours.

Motoring note: I received an email from Joe Michaels regarding light truck tire inflation. "I noted in the final paragraph of that article, you recommended inflating the tires in question to 44 psi after the writer stated that the maxi-

mum inflation rating on the tire's sidewall was 40 psi. This could imply that overinflation would increase tire or vehicle load-carrying capacity."

Thanks, Joe. I should have made clear that 44 psi is the max inflation pressure for the OE P275/70R17 tire, not 40 psi as the writer indicated. This tire would not be overinflated at 44 psi.

ABOUT THE WRITER: Paul Brand, author of "How to Repair Your Car," is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.

Life & Style

'Chaplin's World' honors cinema legend with first museum

GENEVA (AP)—As Charlie Chaplin finished out his long life on his bucolic Swiss manor, the former silent film star worried about drifting into oblivion, his connoisseurs say.

Little chance of that. The legacy of the Hollywood legend behind "The Dictator" and "Modern Times" lives on today in the minds of stars like Johnny Depp and Robert Downey Jr., in Broadway plays and in the general cultural consciousness. But he never had bricks-and-mortar museum honoring his life and achievements.

That changes Sunday with the public opening of "Chaplin's World," a multimillion-dollar

project in the Swiss village of Corsier-sur-Vevey. Its director-general says the museum is the first of its kind in the world to honor Chaplin, and has added value because it's at a place he called home for years.

The "Manoir de Ban" is where Chaplin lived his last 25 years raising children, writing music and movie scripts, and contemplating his legacy far from the glare of the Hollywood spotlight. Visitors can see his trademark bowler hat and cane, a replica studio, black-and-white photographs from his career, and the bedroom where he died at age 88 in 1977.

Working with Paris' Grevin museum, which is known for

its wax figures, managers have displayed a number of figures of Chaplin as well as friends like Albert Einstein and Winston Churchill on the green 14-hectare (35-acre) grounds along Lake Geneva, said Jean-Pierre Pigeon, the Swiss-Canadian director of Chaplin's World.

"He was not just resting here, he was working. He was part of the region," said Pigeon. "He was able to live a normal life here. He found the right life-work balance here in Switzerland. In England, he was really poor, in the United States, he was really successful in his career and money-wise, but his real happiness was here for 25 years."



A woman looks at a wall of pictures during the inauguration and the opening of the museum "Chaplin's World by Grevin" at the Manoir de Ban, in Corsier-Sur-Vevey, Switzerland, Saturday, April 16, 2016. AP

In Loving Memory of

† *Zenaida Mae Castro Javier*

Lovingly known as Zhen

May 07, 1976 – April 11, 2016

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her...

Children: Andrea Hope J. Roberto
Nathaniel Ray J. Roberto

Her brothers, sisters and their children:

†Tina C. Blanco (Ricardo Jr., Clarissa & Andrew)
Norbert Castro and Family
Christina Castro and Family
Rosaline C. Macabalo and Family
Reynaldo C. Javier and Family
Joseph C. Javier and Family
Jeffrey C. Javier and Family
Roberto Javier and Family
†Norberto S. Javier, Jr. and Family
Antonio Javier and Family
Maria Teresa J. Tobias and Family
Vicente Javier and Family
Noel Javier and Family
Maria Angeles J. Trinidad-Webare and Family

*In her New Life, she will be met
at the gate of heaven by her:*

Father: †Norberto Santos Javier, Sr.
Mother: †Ana Castro Javier
Sister: †Tina Marie Castro Blanco
Brother: †Norbert S. Javier, Jr.

*She is additionally survived by numerous uncles,
aunts, cousins, nephews and nieces.*

Daily Mass of Intentions are being offered every day at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. and Holy Rosary at 7:30 p.m.

Viewing and last respects will be at Mount Carmel Cathedral on April 20, 2016 beginning 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. to be followed by the Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery where she will be laid at her final resting place.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You - Si Yu'us Ma'ase

The Family

*"In all our losses, all our gains,
In all our pleasures, all our pains
The life of life is: love remains
In every change from good to ill,
If love continues still,
Let happen then what will."*

— Theodore Tilton

'Jungle Book' roars with \$103.6 million debut

NEW YORK (AP)—The Walt Disney Co.'s "The Jungle Book" opened with \$103.6 million in North America, making it one of the biggest April debuts ever at the box office and continuing the studio's streak of unearthing live-action riches buried in its animated classics.

Jon Favreau's update of Disney's 1967 animated version of Rudyard Kipling's book tells the tale of Mowgli with computer-generated imagery and big-screen bombast. A sizable 42 percent of the film's domestic sales came from 3-D and premium-format screens.

"The Jungle Book" is just the latest of Disney's string of live-action remakes of classic cartoons ("Cinderella," "Alice in Wonderland," "Maleficent"), most of which have fared well at the box office. More plundering of the Disney library is in the works: "Cruella De Ville" and "Peter Pan" are in development; "Beauty and the Beast" is scheduled for next March.

"There's some consistency that's happened here in the last few years as we've really made this a priority and a strategy from a company perspective," said Disney distribution head Dave Hollis, who credited production president



AP
In this image released by Disney, Shere Khan the tiger, voiced by Idris Elba, appears in a scene from, "The Jungle Book."

Sean Bailey with overseeing the live-action adaptations. "He's been able to do it in a way that really makes them contemporary and, certainly in this case, fully utilizes available technology.

"We've got a lot more of these stories to tell."

"The Jungle Book," made for about \$175 million, was propelled by glowing reviews from critics. It ranks as the second biggest April opening

ever, behind only "Furious 7's" \$147.2 million debut.

It also took in an estimated \$136.1 million overseas that includes \$20.1 million so far in India where it's the third-highest grossing Hollywood release after 10 days. Ahead of the film's big opening, Warner Bros.—sensing stiff competition—pushed the release of its own "Jungle Book" a year to October 2018.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior

media analyst for comScore, said that the live-action remakes are proving to be another substantial engine for Disney, along with its franchise-building assets in Marvel, Pixar and Lucasfilm.

"To have this incredible vault of content that they can go back to and reimagine, retool and recreate for today's audiences just gives them a depth and breadth of films that is almost unparalleled," Der-

garabedian said. "Disney has this knack for taking something that's very old and making it new again."

Opening in second place was Ice Cube's "Barbershop: The Next Cut" with \$20.2 million. The fourth film in the comedy series (which included the 2005 spinoff "Beauty Shop") failed to match the \$24.2 million debut of the previous "Barber Shop 2: Back in Business" in 2004, but it still

supplied a solid opening for New Line and MGM.

The Kevin Costner action thriller "Criminal," however, opened with a mere \$5.9 million for Lionsgate. It cost around \$30 million to make.

The Melissa McCarthy comedy "The Boss," the number 1 film last weekend, dropped steeply. It slid 57 percent with \$10.2 million in its second week, landing in third place.

Two well-reviewed films opened in limited release: the Weinstein Co.'s musical coming-of-age tale "Sing Street" (\$69,000 in five theaters) and A24's bloody thriller "Green Room" (\$91,000 in three theaters).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"The Jungle Book,"** \$103.6 million (\$136.1 million international).
2. **"Barbershop: The Next Cut,"** \$20.2 million.
3. **"The Boss,"** \$10.2 million (\$2.5 million international).
4. **"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,"** \$9 million (\$15.1 million international).
5. **"Zootopia,"** \$8.2 million (\$10.8 million international).
6. **"Criminal,"** \$5.9 million (\$2 million international).
7. **"My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2,"** \$3.3 million (\$1.3 million international).
8. **"Miracles From Heaven,"** \$1.9 million.
9. **"God's Not Dead 2,"** \$1.7 million.
10. **"Eye in the Sky,"** \$1.6 million (\$1.9 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. **"The Jungle Book,"** \$136.1 million.
2. **"The Huntsman: Winter's War,"** \$17.6 million.
3. **"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,"** \$15.1 million.
4. **"Zootopia,"** \$10.8 million.
5. **"London Has Fallen,"** \$9 million.
6. **"Kung Fu Panda 3,"** \$7.5 million.
7. **"10 Cloverfield Lane,"** \$4 million.
8. **"Les Visiteurs: La Revolution,"** \$3.5 million.
9. **"The Divergent Series: Allegiant,"** \$3 million.
10. **"The Boss,"** \$2.5 million.

Clinton, Sanders dash about New York days before primary

NEW YORK (AP)—Bernie Sanders revved up what he said was a record crowd of nearly 29,000 in his boyhood borough, insisting that Democratic presidential rival Hillary Clinton cannot "tell the American people with a straight face that you're going to stand up to big-money interests" when those same interests are giving millions of dollars to her supportive super PAC.

The Vermont senator also said during the rally at Prospect Park that the former secretary of state must have given a "pretty damned good speech" to the bank Goldman Sachs since it paid her more than \$200,000 as a speaking fee.

Sanders has seized on the months-old arguments with increasing agitation in recent weeks. Sunday's speeches came 48 hours before the New York primary—and on the heels of one of Clinton's most high-profile campaign fundraisers yet.

Both Sanders and Clinton claim ties to New York. Brooklyn-native Sanders could use a win Tuesday to jar the front-runner, while Clinton wants to halt his momentum with a victory in the state that sent her to the U.S. Sen-



AP
Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks during a campaign rally in Prospect Park, Sunday, April 17, 2016, in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

ate. Clinton has led the polls, and in a tacit acknowledgment that the election is likely to be tough, Sanders plans to be in soon-to-vote Pennsylvania on Tuesday night.

Clinton and Sanders aggressively campaigned across the city Sunday. Both courted black voters; Clinton needs a large African-American turnout to win Tuesday and Sanders would like to erode some of that support.

Clinton brought mothers who lost children to gun violence to a church in Mount

Vernon, where she stressed her record on gun control. Clinton then hit get-out-the-vote events in Brooklyn and predominantly Hispanic Washington Heights.

She concluded her day on the Republican stronghold of Staten Island, where she touted bipartisanship and rallied a crowd of 500, questioning Sanders' role in the effort to revamp health care in the 1990s.

"Well, where were you?" Clinton asked. "I mean, really." Sanders began his day at a

church in Harlem, where he emphasized that the Black Lives Matter movement had shown him how black communities feel targeted by the police. He later greeted well-wishers at a park shadowed by the Brooklyn Bridge and toured public housing in Brooklyn.

Over the weekend, both candidates briefly left New York.

Sanders paid a visit to the Vatican. And Clinton made her way to California, where actor George Clooney hosted two

weekend fundraisers for her. Donations for attendees at an event in San Francisco topped out at \$353,000 per couple, which even Clooney said is an "obscene amount of money."

The fundraiser even drew pro-Sanders demonstrators, Clooney recounted in an interview airing Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." When he went to talk with them, he said, they called him a corporate shill.

"That's one of the funnier things you could say about me," the Oscar-winner said, though he conceded that some of the protesters had a valid point regarding a different matter.

"Their T-shirts said, you know, 'You sucked as Batman,'" said Clooney, the star of 1997's "Batman & Robin," one of the least memorable films in the superhero franchise. "And I was like, 'Well, you kind of got me on that one.'"

Asked on CNN Sunday whether Clooney was siding with the wrong candidate, Sanders replied, "I think he is." But he complimented Clooney for talking about money in politics, which has been the cornerstone of his campaign.

Amber Heard pleads guilty in Australian dog smuggling spat

SYDNEY (AP)—Actor Johnny Depp's wife Amber Heard pleaded guilty Monday to providing a false immigration document amid allegations she smuggled the couple's dogs into Australia.

Prosecutors dropped two more serious charges that Heard illegally imported the Yorkshire terriers, Pistol and Boo, into the country last year, when Depp was filming the fifth movie in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" series. A conviction on the illegal importation counts could have sent the actress to prison for up to 10 years. The false documents charge carries a maximum penalty of a year in jail and a fine of more than 10,000 Australian dollars (\$7,650).

Heard's lawyer, Jeremy Kirk, told the Southport Magistrates Court on Queensland state's Gold Coast that his client never meant to lie on her incoming passenger card by failing to declare she had animals with her. In truth, Kirk said, she was simply jetlagged and assumed her assistants had sorted out the paperwork.

Prosecutor Peter Callaghan said ignorance and fatigue were no excuse.

"The laws apply to every-



^{AP}
Johnny Depp, center, and wife Amber Heard, left, arrive at the Southport Magistrates Court on the Gold Coast, Australia, Monday, April 18, 2016.

who is now the deputy prime minister of Australia, elevated what might otherwise have been a local spat into a global delight for comedians and broadcasters. One newspaper ran a doggie death count-down ticker on its website that marked the hours remaining before the dogs had to flee the country, and comedian John Oliver dedicated a more than 6-minute segment to lampooning the ordeal.

Depp himself poked fun at the drama during a press conference in Venice last year where he was asked if he planned to take the dogs for a gondola ride. "No," he replied. "I killed my dogs and ate them, under direct orders from some kind of, I don't know, sweaty, big-gutted man from Australia."

Depp and Heard made a videotaped apology that was played in court during Monday's hearing.

"If you disrespect Australian law," Depp says in the video, "they will tell you firmly."

The judge was expected to issue a sentence later Monday.

one," he said.

The debacle over the dogs began last May, when Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce accused Depp of smuggling the tiny terriers aboard his private jet when he returned to Australia to resume filming the "Pirates" movie.

Australia has strict quarantine regulations to prevent diseases such as rabies from spreading to its shores. Bringing pets into the country involves applying for a permit and quarantine on arrival of at least 10 days.

"If we start letting movie

stars—even though they've been the sexiest man alive twice—to come into our nation (with pets), then why don't we just break the laws for everybody?" Joyce said at the time. "It's time that Pistol and Boo buggered off back to the United States."

Depp and Heard were given 72 hours to send Pistol and Boo back to the U.S., with officials warning that the dogs would otherwise be euthanized. The pooches boarded a flight home just hours before the deadline ran out.

The comments by Joyce,

Trying to prevent making of child stars, China issues a ban

BEIJING (AP)—China is banning the children of famous entertainers from appearing on hugely popular reality shows, as the country continues efforts to try to prevent the manufacture of child stars.

The ban by the government's media regulator also covers appearances by the stars' children on chat shows and reports about them on

entertainment programs, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Monday.

Reality shows featuring attractive stars and their well-dressed, fashionably coifed and often somewhat precocious children traveling or performing tasks together have grown extremely popular with Chinese viewers in recent years.

However, apparently con-

cerned with the growth of celebrity culture, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television ordered in July that producers of the dozens of reality shows on satellite channels cut back on appearances by minors and tamp down parts of the shows seen as attempting to make them stars on their own.

Alfonso Ribeiro wins final Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race

LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP)—Alfonso Ribeiro won the 40th and final Toyota Pro/Celebrity Race, a fan favorite event at the Grand Prix of Long Beach.

Ribeiro was also the celebrity winner in 1994 and 1995, and the Pro winner in 2015. The of "America's Funniest Home Videos" also won "Dancing with the Stars" in 2014.

"I owe an awful lot to the city of Long Beach, they've

been so supportive, and to Toyota, 40 years putting on this fantastic Pro/Celebrity Race and promoting Long Beach the way they have," Ribeiro said.

Max Papis won the Pro category by finishing 4.872 seconds behind Ribeiro.

"It is just an amazing event and who won was the kids this event supports," said Papis. "This is the best street course in America, maybe the world."

The race Saturday was the

final event of the longest-running corporate-sponsored charity race in the country. The event has helped Toyota donate more than \$2.3 million to "Racing For Kids" since 1991.

This year's all-star field featured 18 previous winners, and Doug Fregin, co-Founder of Research in Motion (now Blackberry) and Quantum Valley Investments Fund, who was the charity auction winner of the event in 2009, 2012 and 2014.

Actress Carrie Fisher to be honored by Harvard student group

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—"Star Wars" actress Carrie Fisher is being honored by a Harvard student group.

Fisher is receiving a lifetime achievement award Monday from the Harvard Community of Humanists, Atheists, and Agnostics.

The group is honoring the 59-year-old self-described "enthusiastic agnostic," in

part, for her work on mental health issues.

Fisher has chronicled her struggles with drug addiction and bipolar disorder throughout her career, including in her semi-autobiographical novel "Postcards from the Edge," which she also turned into a movie.



Fisher

Previous honorees include former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, author Salman Rushdie, comedian Eddie Izzard and director Seth MacFarlane. The award is in its tenth year.

The event will be held at the Memorial Church in Cambridge.

Strangers' parenting advice may deserve consideration

DEAR ABBY: What do I say to people who give me unsolicited parenting advice or scold my daughter in public? I would never interfere with another parent or direct a child who isn't in my care. What gives these people the right to barge into someone else's life in such a way?

I have been chastised for letting my daughter sit on the floor while waiting in a long line, letting her be more than 4 feet away from me in the aisles, and allowing her to speak loudly. She's 3. I don't hire a sitter for running errands and I can't leave her in the car.

It's hard enough wrangling an energetic kid while trying to shop, do banking or send mail without being constantly pestered by strangers. Do you have any thoughts on this?

MOM IN HILLSBORO, ORE.

DEAR MOM: If your child is so disruptive that individuals feel the need to intervene or offer "parenting advice," then it's time you took some of it to heart. If she's bored while you're doing errands, bring something along for her to do rather than use her "outside voice" or run wild in the aisles.

DEAR ABBY: Prom is less than three weeks away, and I'm still looking for the perfect dress. My mom and I went prom dress shopping one time -- but everything I liked, she didn't.

She told me that if she didn't like the dress, she was not going to purchase it.

I tried to tell her this is my prom and I should like the dress, not her, without sounding mean. She told me I should pick the cheapest dress.

Am I wrong for not liking the dresses she likes? How can I get through to her that this is not her prom, but my prom?

AGGRAVATED IN LOUISIANA

DEAR AGGRAVATED: When you start buying your own wardrobe, your taste can be the deciding factor. However, when your mother buys it FOR you, it's important to remember that her budget needs to be considered and try to be gracious about it. As you will discover when you are older, because a dress is expensive does not guarantee that it's the prettiest or that it will look great on you.

DEAR ABBY: Friday, April 22, is Earth Day. Recycling is so important to our planet's irreplaceable resources. Can you please remind your readers how long it takes items to break down in a landfill?

SCOTT IN TEXAS

DEAR SCOTT: Items such as glass bottles and jars, plastic containers, aluminum cans, disposable diapers and plastic foam cups can take from hundreds to thousands of

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



years—or more—to decompose. Cigarette butts can take up to 10 years. I encourage interested readers to go online, see the figures and learn what they can do to reduce, reuse or recycle.

Earth Day offers a chance for all of us to do something positive for the planet. Many parents use it as an opportunity to bond with their children, and some schools offer credit to students who participate. Helping children understand how the garbage they produce impacts their environment is important, so please, Readers, do what you can.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

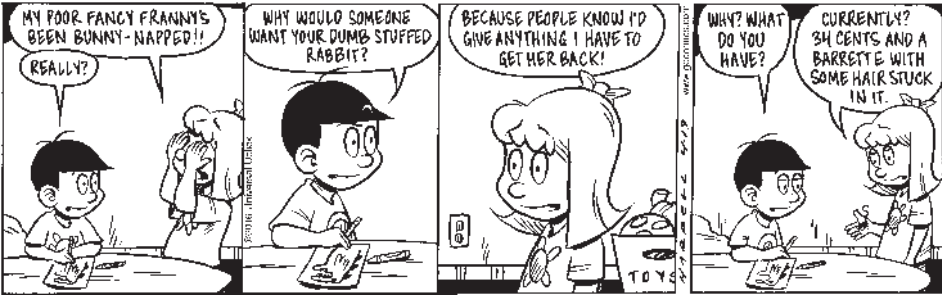


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cleans the floor

5 "For shame!"

8 Padlock fastener

12 Out of control

13 Verily

14 Wrinkly fruit

15 Bonus for a job well done

17 Let fall

18 Busy insect

19 Moray, for one

20 Orange variety

21 Longtime record label

22 As well

23 Dickens' Heep

26 Showy flowers

30 Fringe benefit

31 That girl

32 Hay unit

33 Reacted to pollen

35 Beta follower

36 Kitten's cry

37 Coquettish

38 "Pretty Boy" of crime

41 Poke

42 Shock partner

45 Incursion

46 Haughty sort

48 Jazzy

49 Flamenco cheer

50 Roof overhang

51 Relaxed

52 "— been real"

53 Fired

3 Sweet wine

4 Enjoy Vail

5 Hyper personality

6 Barking critter

7 Singer

8 Canadian body of water

9 Taj Mahal city

10 Trudge

11 Prop for Sherlock

16 Georgia or Cal

20 Tic-tac-toe win

21 Memorable Clint Eastwood line

22 Golf prop

23 Boom times

24 Stimpy's pal

25 Rage

26 Third degree?

27 Cartesian conclusion

28 Shade tree

29 Vast expanse

31 Stitch

34 Last letter in London

35 Asian desert

37 Garments for superheroes

38 Gratis

39 In — land

40 Monet works

41 Shock

42 Trojan War hero

43 Greet silently

44 Ogled

46 Luau bowlful

47 PBS funder

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-19

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hayden Christensen, 35; Kate Hudson, 37; James Franco, 38; Ashley Judd, 48.

Happy Birthday: Getting along with your peers may not be easy, but it will make all the difference when it comes to advancement. Strive for greater popularity by offering assistance and suggestions. Be willing to adapt and collaborate and you will gain support. Stabilize your home and personal life by putting a good budget in place. Your numbers are 8, 11, 16, 21, 29, 33, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay on top of what you want to accomplish. An industrious attitude will put you in the running for advancement. Spend wisely on items or information that will help you get ahead and be your best. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Put your heart into everything you do. Focus on your reputation and dealing with situations that include children or socializing. If you mix business with pleasure, you will achieve more. Your focus should be on quality, not quantity. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do something active that combines exercise and conversation with others. Romance is in the stars and will unfold unexpectedly. Your tireless efforts will leave a lasting impression and set the stage for a promising future. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take note of what is going on around you. Showing interest in others will help keep the peace and put you in a favorable position when

you want something in return. For now, relationships will face stress if you complain or make a fuss. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Mingle with people who can offer you information or help you gain popularity or a chance to advance. Boost your energy by getting involved in an exhilarating challenge with a friend or loved one. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Share your ideas and you'll receive valuable suggestions from your allies. Step up your game when it comes to long-range planning. Don't pass up a chance to get ahead because someone is putting unreasonable domestic demands on you. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Emotional sensitivity will surface if someone tries to control you or introduces last-minute changes. Try to maintain your balance and make plans to do what suits you best. Getting upset will only make matters worse. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Broaden the possibilities by discussing your plans with someone who can contribute. Joining forces with others will make any project pursue engaging and entertaining. Think outside the box, play to win and enjoy the outcome. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Consider a new hobby, but don't go overboard spending on accessories until you are sure you are passionate about your pursuit. Making alterations to your domestic situation will give your love life a boost and encourage greater stability. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen carefully so you fully understand the implications being made before you retaliate. Protect your reputation, assets and possessions before you make anyone aware of your next move. Be smart and you'll have no regrets. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Being hospitable will ensure that you receive the backing required to achieve your objectives. Work at putting together a routine that is ironclad and geared toward success. Immaculate organization will be key. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Open up conversations with the intent of forming partnerships with well-established individuals whom you can trust to do their share. Don't be put off by concerns or questions. Offer possible solutions and you'll get positive feedback. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are reliable, imaginative and goal-oriented. You are assertive and open-minded.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TOBY KEITH

Solution: 6 letters

DYALPNACIREMAKT
REECARTSILYMLRO
ELLELOCKSHOEIYN
ALRKSCCTOHVCTSN
MEEEINEPAOIATTI
WHCSDLELCAORLAE
OSUOESKHLNNOELL
RMDNCOOUNIOLTWL
KCOGAOCLAAOYOAI
SLRWUOHOHNMNOV
IIPRSIPTJCEBLK
NNUIEMTREBUHA
GTLTOWNAOMLP
YOLESKNIRDBESN
ENTREPRENEURIDE

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Adkins, A Little Too Late, American, Blue Moon, Carolyn, Cause, Chain, Clinton, Cover, DreamWorks, Drinks, Entrepreneur, Guitar, Hensley, Hits, Hope, Hubert, Joan, Krystal, Like, Me Too, MPH, Music, My List, Nashville, Oklahoma, Play, Producer, Pull, Red Solo Cup, Ride, Rocks, Shelley, Sing, Songwriter, Stelen, Tinnie, Town, Trace, Tricia Lucas

Yesterday's Answer: Big Jake

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 or 46, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

1 Pastor: \$1,200-\$1,500/mo. 3 years experience and Korean language speaking fluency required. Email resume to goodnews@hanmisaipan.com.

Job Vacancy Announcement
DIPOTO CO.

(1) **General Manager** – 5yrs. experience with an above average skills in Computer Design
(1) **Supervisor** – 3yrs. experience in photo-shop design and digital camera shooting
(2) **Photographers** – 2yrs. experience in photo shooting & design

Salary commensurable to experience.
Please send resume to P.O. Box 506448 or email at dipoto@naver.com

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Hanson Micronesia Cement, Inc. - Saipan

Terminal Manager

Responsibilities:

- Supervise daily operations of a cement distribution terminal
- Communicate effectively with our customers
- Safely operate equipment to discharge cement from vessels and load customer trucks
- Do periodic maintenance/trouble shoot all terminal equipment
- Prepare all paperwork to accompany loads and keep daily and monthly inventory records
- Ensure all employee are trained and follow safe work practices and procedures; consistent with company policies and OSHA standards

Requirements:

- Minimum of 2-4 years' experience in cement or related industry preferred
- Excellent communication skills (oral and written)
- Good organizational skills
- Prepared to work flexible hours, including some weekends, nights, and holidays
- Clerical skills a plus
- College degree preferred (or equivalent by experience)

Please submit resume by email to derek.sadler@hanson.biz.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

REGISTERED NURSE (01 POSITION)

- Must Pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License
- At least two to three years experience
- Must hold a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must be flexible with time schedule.

Interested application must submit resume or pick up an application at Saipan Health Clinic in Chalan Kiya, Saipan.
Deadline to submit application will be April 21, 2016 at 4:00 pm.
For more information please call (670) 234-2901 ext. 128.

St. Jude Renal Care Facility, Inc.
Job Vacancy Announcement

HEMODIALYSIS TECHNICIAN (03)

- Certified form Junior College/Technician School in healthcare
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program
- Three years hemodialysis experienced-preferred
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Flexible with time schedule

REGISTERED NURSE (01 POSITION)

- Must Pass NCLEX with current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis-training program
- One to two years experience or related field
- English language skills-proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- In-Service training with Baxter Phoenix machine

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick-up application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., in Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on April 21, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call (670) 234-2905, ext. 128.

WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY
has opening for:

One (1) Sales/Marketing Manager
Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor of business Administration degree with a major in Marketing or closely related field (may be foreign equivalent) and two years experience as a Sales and/or Marketing Manager, preferably wines or spirits.
Duties: Reports to company's CEO/General Manager or designee and manages and directs the sales and marketing operations for the company. Works in conjunction with senior management in formulating the company's overall sales policies and marketing (Advertising, Promotions, and Merchandising) plans to optimize the company's sales. Forecasts sales, track sales performance of company's products, and explains variances. Manages and directs activities of sales and marketing personnel (Customer service, product ordering, sales, invoicing, deliveries, merchandising, collections, promotions, POSs/signages placement and upkeep) and ensures that company's sales and marketing policies and procedures are being followed. Maintains business relationships with existing customers, develops new accounts, and negotiates sales contracts. Resolves any customer concerns or complaints regarding sales and marketing services. Maintains records of all sales and marketing activities; monitor customer preferences to determine focus of sales efforts; and analyzes pricing points and volume in order to make necessary modifications in sales strategy to improve wholesale sales and keep the company competitive. Performs feasibility analyses for expansion into new product lines and marketing areas. Performs other related duties, as required.

Two (2) Product Demonstrator
Minimum Qualification: One year experience as product demonstrator.
Duties: Demonstrates and explains products to persuade customers to purchase product. Sets up and arranges displays or demonstrations areas to attract attention of prospective customers. Transports, assembles, and disassembles materials used in presentations. Prepares or alters presentation contents to target specific audiences. Cooks products and gives samples to customers. Provides product information and suggests specific product purchases to meet customers' needs. Sells products being promoted and keeps records of sales. Restocks store shelves to replenish products sold following product merchandising procedures. Contacts salesmen to replenish merchandise and follows up on deliveries. Performs other related duties.

If interested, send resume to Western Sales Trading Company by email to bello.lumintegar@yahoo.com or by fax at 670-322-9408. Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within three days of hire.

Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated
has an opening for:

One (1) Survey Instrument Man
Minimum Qualifications: Associates degree in Geodetic Engineering (may be foreign equivalent) and two (2) years experience as a survey instrument man or surveyor assistant, and working knowledge of conventional and GPS survey instruments and land surveying computation/coordinate geometry software.
Duties: Performs land survey-related data and document research. Conducts field cadastral, topographic and/or as-built surveys on assigned projects. Operates survey instruments during the conduct of assigned survey work. Organizes and takes survey field notes according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Downloads and assists in the plotting of data from data collectors according to procedures established by the chief of surveys. Uses computer-based land survey software applications to perform land survey-related computations. Works and coordinates with engineers and environmental scientists to satisfy survey requirements on engineering design and environmental projects.

If interested, send resume to Duenas, Camacho & Associates, Incorporated by email to duenas1@pticom.com or by fax at 670-234-3824.
Proof of qualifications and police clearance required within one week of acceptance to hire.

POI AVIATION

Invites qualified US worker candidates to apply for the following positions:

Airport Service Agent (5)
High School Diploma or GED equivalent; entry-level computer skills and strong oral and written communication skills in English and preferably in Chinese and Korean languages. Be at least 18 years of age and able to travel to work locations as needed. Previous customer service experience preferred. Must be able to lift bags or items weighing up to 70 pounds. Must be able to work a fixed and/or rotating schedule including evenings, early mornings, weekends and holidays. Candidates must pass a post offer pre-employment drug test and an extensive pre-employment background check, including finger printing and criminal history record check required by Federal law.

Interested applicants may send their applications to recruitment@poiaviation.com.
To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than April 25, 2016. Applications for employment are available at the Human Resources Department located at the POI Aviation Building on International Terminal LP, Saipan International Airport.

POI Aviation is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.


CORAL OCEAN GOLF RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Cook (Japanese Cuisine)
Salary: \$6.05 to \$8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. Six months to a year of work related experienced. Culinary Degree preferred but not required. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekends and holidays. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Full understanding of licensing responsibilities and environmental health standards. And a highly qualified in preparing variety of food and knowledgeable in processing and food production, of Japanese Cuisine, like salad, appetizers, dessert and main entrees. Must be able to obtain Food Handler Certification.

Bartender (1- Korean Market, 1- Chinese Market, 1 = Local Market)
Salary: \$6.05 to 8:00
High School Diploma or equivalent, At least one year experienced working as a Bartender, Knowledge in different variety of cocktail, tropical, alcoholic or non-alcohol drinks. Must be able to create and possess broad ideas for mixing, creating and serving drinks. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. A "People Person", acquired hospitality related program and speaking additional languages preferred but not required. Must be able to speak and understand English, fluent in Korean or Mandarin language. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of customers. Computer literate. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time. Able to obtain Food Handler Certification, Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evening, weekends and holidays.

Housekeeping Assistant Manager
Salary: \$9.50 to \$11.71
High School Diploma, Hospitality related course or equivalent. Hospitality related course is At least 5 or more years of work experience in the relate field, Knowledge of principles and process for providing customer and personal service including handling large group of arrivals, planning, organizing, and developing of the overall operation of the housekeeping department in accordance to the federal law and local standards and guidelines along with assuring the highest degree of quality guest care. Process working knowledge of rooms management system and advanced knowledge of housekeeping process and procedures. Knowledge and ability to supervise, experience performing housekeeping duties, hardworking, Leadership ability, keen observation skills, and be detail oriented. Willing to work under pressure with the specified number of rooms and duties assigned in everyday. Computer Literate. Be able to stand prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly and good manner. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, weekends and holidays.

Front Desk Clerk (1 = Korean Market, 1 = Chinese Market)
Salary: \$6.05 to \$8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. Have at least three months to one year of related work experienced. Knowledge of principle and processes for providing excellent personal and customer service skills. including handling large group of arrivals. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Must be able to speak and understand English and preferably fluent in Korean or Mandarin language. Computer proficiency and email communication. Knowledge in any Hotel System software is a plus. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays and be able to stand for prolonged period of time.

Food & Beverage Cashier (1 = Korean Market, 1 = Chinese Market)
Salary: \$6.05 to \$8.00
High School Diploma or equivalent. At least have few months experienced in the related field. Experienced working in a restaurant is a plus. Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services including handling large group of arrivals in the restaurant. Excellent interpersonal skills with a positive attitude, professional, neat and well groomed at all times. Must be able to speak and understand English and preferably fluent in Korean or Mandarin language. Knowledge in navigating point of sale system and computer literacy is a must. Be able to stand for prolonged period of time and must possess a friendly, a people person, trustworthiness, with a good manners and right conduct. Willing to work in flexible shifts, days, evenings, weekend and holidays.

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Big 3 lifts Cavaliers past Pistons in Game 1



CLEVELAND (AP)—Kyrie Irving scored 31 points in his first playoff game since being injured in last year's NBA Finals and Kevin Love added 28, leading the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 106-101 win over the young and confident Detroit Pistons in the opener of their first-round playoff series Sunday.

LeBron James added 22 points and 11 assists for the top-seeded Cavs, who are favored to win the Eastern Conference again but got all they could handle from the Pistons.

Love, knocked out of the playoffs with a shoulder injury in the first round a year ago, made two critical 3-pointers in the fourth quarter.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 21 and Marcus Morris 20—but just one after halftime—for the Pistons, making their first playoff appearance since 2009. Andre Drummond had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Detroit made 15 3-pointers, but the Pistons' playoff inexperience showed in the final minutes.

Game 2 is Wednesday night at Quicken Loans Arena, which was on edge for much of Game 1 as the Pistons, who beat Cleveland three times during the regular season, flirted with an upset.

For more than 40 minutes, the Pistons, who have just one starter with playoff experience, matched the Cavaliers shot for shot. Detroit's young squad wasn't intimidated and Reggie Jackson's 3-pointer tied it 88-88 with 6:29 left.

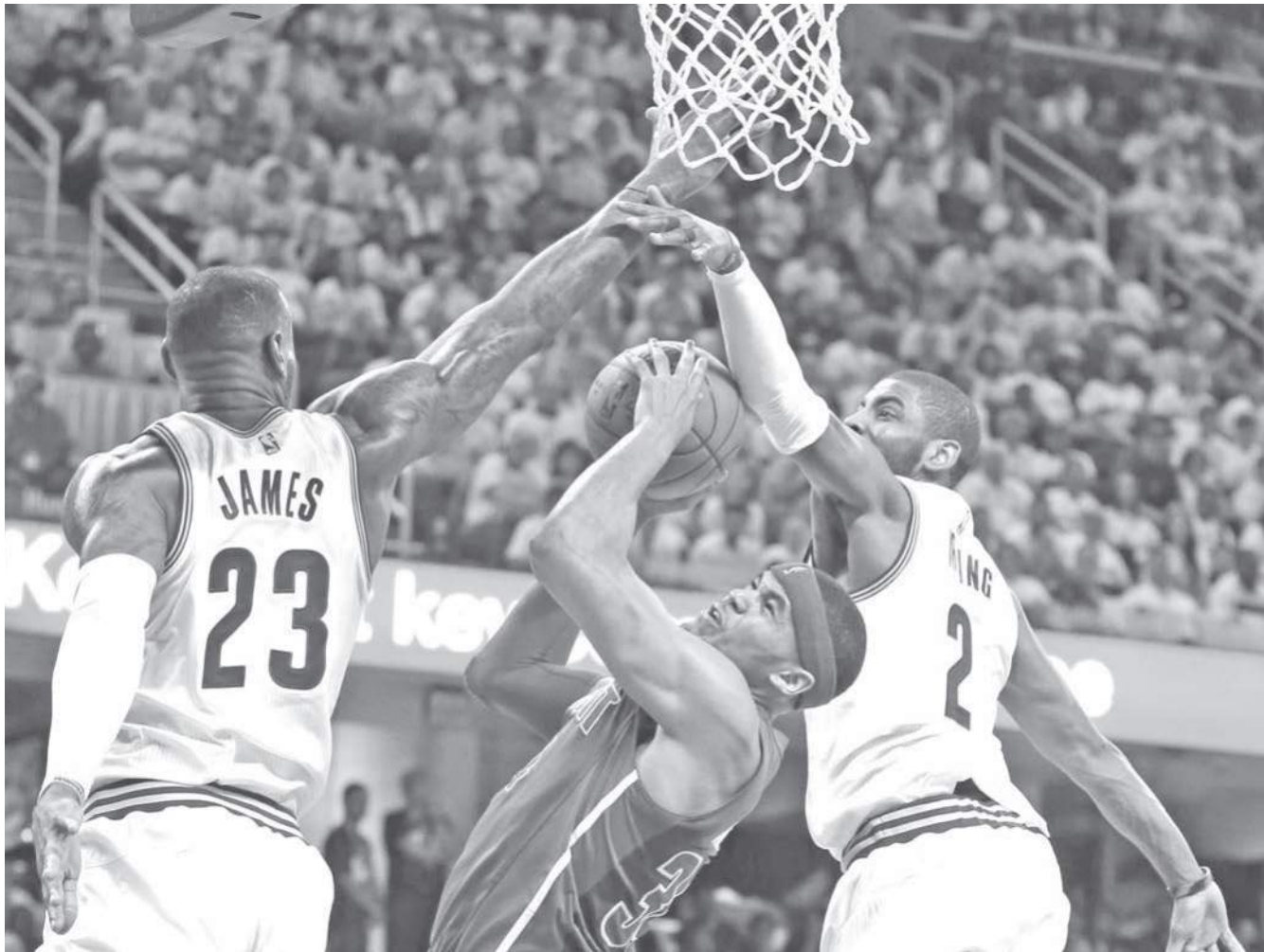
But that's when Love, who has had two uneven seasons since coming to Cleveland, buried consecutive 3s to put the Cavs ahead by four and finally allow a sellout crowd of more than 20,000 a chance to relax.

The Pistons hung around and were within 100-96 on a free throw by Morris, but James cut to the basket for a layup and Jackson missed a 3-pointer before Irving's two free throws gave Cleveland an eight-point lead.

It was a sweet playoff return for Irving, who fractured his kneecap against Golden State in the finals and needed surgery and months of grueling rehab before he could return to the floor.

The Pistons didn't show any signs of fear early on and led 58-53 at halftime thanks to 10 3-pointers.

Coach Stan Van Gundy did



Detroit Pistons' Tobias Harris (34) drives to the basket against Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) and Kyrie Irving (2) in the second half of Game 1 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Sunday, April 17, 2016, in Cleveland. The Cavaliers won, 106-101.

all he could to help his team, which improved by 12 wins over last season. Upset with a non-call against James, Van Gundy stormed down the sideline during a timeout to argue with the referees that James should have twice been whistled for offensive fouls.

But Van Gundy couldn't do anything to slow down the Cavs after halftime as Love, Irving and James —Cleveland's Big 3—combined for 81 points.

Spurs 106, Grizzlies 74

In San Antonio, Kawhi Leonard and the San Antonio Spurs turned a tense game into a lopsided laughter.

Leonard had 20 points and the Spurs beat Memphis 106-74 on Sunday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference first-round series, handing the Grizzlies their worst postseason loss.

San Antonio had 13 steals and nine blocks, with Leonard finishing with four steals and three blocks.

"He's just aggressive," said Vince Carter, who led Memphis with 16 points. "He's in passing lanes, he has great on-ball instincts, great hands and he blocks shots very well at his position as well. So, even if he gets beat, he can recover. He has very long arms. He's just relentless, and he really gets their defense started."

Leonard was aggressive from tipoff, stripping Matt

Barnes on Memphis' opening possession and turning the steal into a breakaway dunk.

"I got some easy shots going into that transition, getting some layups and dunks," Leonard said. "That's how you get in rhythm, for my teammates as well. If they're able to get an easy layup, they're just going to gain more confidence."

LaMarcus Aldridge added 17 points, and Tony Parker had 15 points and six assists for San Antonio. The Spurs sat their starters in the fourth quarter to rest them for Game 2 on Tuesday night in San Antonio.

San Antonio shot 68 percent in the third quarter, outscoring Memphis 33-14 to break open what had been a relatively close game against the short-handed Grizzlies.

"When you're playing against a team like this at home, you have to value the basketball and you have to hit shots as well," Carter said. "When we're turning the ball over and not hitting shots, the lead can go from a five-point game to a 15- to 20-point game in the blink of an eye. That's what happened for us and I think that rattled us a little bit."

Memphis matched a postseason low in the first quarter with 13 points, and only Xavier Munford's 15-foot jumper with 46.1 seconds remaining kept it from matching the worst output in any quarter.

Zach Randolph was held to six points on 3-for-13 shooting.

The Spurs ran a series of defenders and double teams to harass Randolph, the only remaining player among the team's top three scorers.

Heat 123, Hornets 91

In Miami, Luol Deng scored 31 points on 11-for-13 shooting, Hassan Whiteside added 21 points and 11 rebounds in his postseason debut, and Miami routed Charlotte in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference series.

Curry still questionable in Game 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors are preparing to play without NBA MVP Stephen Curry for Game 2 of their playoff series against Houston as he nurses an ankle injury.

Even if they know he will beg and plead to play through any pain. As long as he can't make it worse, Curry insists it will be hard to keep him off the court Monday night.

"Oh, yeah, for sure," coach Steve Kerr said of Curry campaigning to play. "When Steph's out, our guys understand that he's not there to count on, so they have to execute. If they don't, we're just not going to score enough points."

Kerr called Curry's status questionable again Sunday, when the point guard didn't practice a day after hurting his right ankle late in the first half of a 104-78 win over the Rockets in the playoff opener.

"Steph is a warrior. If he can play, he's definitely going to be out there," center Festus Ezeli said.

Curry was undergoing treatment on the ankle Sunday and unavailable for interviews.

"He's doing a little better than yesterday," Kerr said. "He'll get some rest, get off his feet and we'll do the same thing tomorrow at shootaround and see how he's feeling."

If Curry can't play Monday, Shaun Livingston will start in his place. The Warriors won at Houston on Dec. 31 without their superstar.

"It kind of changes things. We don't seem to be as good of a coaching staff when Steph goes out - I don't know why," Kerr joked after practice. "We've got a lot of guys who can play. I think Steph missed three or four games this year. We did fine. Obviously we've got to find different ways to score. We'll prepare for that and see what happens."

Golden State's backups have prided themselves all season in not losing a step when the second team comes into the game. In fact, contributions by the bench were a big reason the Warriors set the NBA record with 73 wins to top the 1995-96 Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls that Kerr played for.

"We're prepared. We're going to continue to play. We're

Dwyane Wade scored 16 points in 26 minutes, Joe Johnson and Amare Stoudemire each had 11 points, and Goran Dragic finished with 10 assists.

Miami scored 41 points in the first quarter to tie one franchise playoff record, set another with the 123 points—topping the 121 in the 2012 NBA Finals clincher against Oklahoma City—and never trailed.

Nic Batum scored 24 points for the Hornets. Kemba Walker added 19.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Miami.

Clippers 115, Trail Blazers 95

In Los Angeles, Chris Paul had 28 points and 11 assists as one of three Clippers with a double-double, leading Los Angeles over the Portland Trail Blazers in the opener of their first-round playoff series.

Blake Griffin had 19 points and 12 rebounds, DeAndre Jordan added 18 points and 12 rebounds and J.J. Redick had 17 points. The Clippers are 6-0 with Griffin in the lineup since he returned from a 45-game absence two weeks ago.

Damian Lillard led the Blazers with 21 points, while backcourt mate CJ McCollum was held to nine points.

Game 2 is Wednesday night at Staples Center.

ready to step in," said power forward Marreese Speights, who scored 12 points in 15 minutes off the bench Saturday. "We've got a lot of guys who can play and will impact the game. We know Steph, when his 30 points are taken off the board - or really 60 points with all the stuff he's doing on the court, playing defense, passing the ball, helping, controlling the offense—but we'll be all right."

Curry landed awkwardly shortly before halftime Saturday.

"I just tried to change direction, missed the shot, and tried to get back on defense, and then slipped a little bit and felt it slip or tweak," he said after the game.

Andrew Bogut knows it will take a lot for Curry not to play. The positive if he does sit is the Warriors have until Thursday to get him healthy for Game 3 at Houston.

"He's the MVP. Take the MVP out of the lineup and there will be some tweaks and changes made," Bogut said. "You know Steph's a competitor. He wants to play every game he can."

A-Rod, Yanks stop skids in victory vs Mariners



NEW YORK
(AP)—Alex Rodriguez

took an immediate liking to his new spot lower in the batting order.

Dropped three rungs to sixth in a struggling lineup, Rodriguez hit a two-run homer that snapped his hitless skid and sent the New York Yankees past the Seattle Mariners, 4-3, on Sunday, ending their four-game losing streak.

"Sometimes you've got to do that, you've got to shuffle the deck a little bit," Rodriguez said. "Whatever it takes to win."

Masahiro Tanaka topped old pal Hisashi Iwakuma in the first major league pitching matchup of former Japanese teammates, a game that was broadcast live on television back home—at 2am in Tokyo.

Brett Gardner had three hits, including an RBI double that stopped New York's 0-for-30 stretch with runners in scoring position. He scored the tiebreaking run on a wild pitch by Iwakuma (0-2) in the fifth inning.

Still, the Yankees continued to struggle at the plate in clutch situations, finishing the three-game series 1 for 35 with RISP.

"You don't ever want to get swept, especially at home," Gardner said. "I thought we played pretty well today."

New York salvaged a win thanks in large part to Tanaka (1-0), who yielded three runs—two earned—and six hits in seven efficient innings. He struck out six and walked none, improving to 4-0 in four career starts against Seattle.

Tanaka worked out of a bases-loaded jam in a 24-pitch first inning, when Kyle Seager drove in a run with a groundout. The right-hander needed only 93 pitches to get through seven.

Phillies 3, Nationals 2

In Philadelphia, Freddy Galvis hit an RBI double off Jonathan Papelbon with two outs in the 10th inning to lift the Philadelphia Phillies over Washington Sunday, ending the Nationals' seven-game winning streak.

Bryce Harper set a career high by homering in his fourth straight game, hitting a solo shot against Jeanmar Gomez (1-0) for a 2-1 lead in the 10th.

Dodgers 3, Giants 1

In Los Angeles, Kenta Maeda pitched seven strong innings, Joc Pederson drove in the tying and go-ahead runs with a fifth-inning homer, and Los Angeles beat San Francisco.

Maeda (2-0) allowed a run and four hits, struck out seven and walked three. The Japanese-born right-hander had pitched six scoreless innings of



AP
New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, right, celebrates with Brian McCann after hitting a two-run home run, also scoring McCann, during the second inning of a baseball game against the Seattle Mariners, Sunday, April 17, 2016, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Louis, which has won three of last four.

Rockies 2, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Nolan Arenado homered twice off Jon Lester (1-1), and Tyler Chatwood pitched seven innings in combining with Miguel Castro and Jake McGee on a three-hitter.

Jason Heyward doubled with one out in the ninth and Anthony Rizzo was hit by a pitch with two outs before McGee struck out Kris Bryant for his third save.

Athletics 3, Royals 2

In Oakland, Josh Reddick's sacrifice fly off Joakim Soria (1-1) broke an eighth-inning tie after Billy Burns tripled into the right-field corner.

John Axford (2-0) induced three consecutive groundouts in the eighth, and Ryan Madson pitched a one-hit ninth for his fourth save.

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 3

In San Diego, Yasmany Tomas homered twice, drove in three runs and scored three times.

Brandon Drury had a two-run homer, a triple and scored twice for the Diamondbacks, who bounced back from Saturday night's 5-3, 14-inning loss to take two of three.

five-hit ball in each of his two previous starts and extended his shutout streak to 14 2/3 innings before Joe Panik ended it with a third-inning homer.

Rays 3, White Sox 2

In St. Petersburg, Matt Moore (1-0) struck out 10 over 6 1/3 innings, allowing two runs and five hits, and Brandon Guyer tied a career high with four hits.

Moore (improved to 4-1 in five starts against the White Sox, Alex Colome got five outs for the Rays' first save this season.

Mets 6, Indians 0

In Cleveland, Steven Matz (1-1) struck out a career-high nine and allowed three hits over seven innings. Given a six-run, second-inning lead, Matz retired the side in order three times and allowed two runners in the same inning once.

Corey Kluber (0-3) gave up six runs and nine hits in six innings, struck out eight and walked one. He is 9-19 since winning the 2014 AL Cy Young Award.

Braves 6, Marlins 5

In Miami, rookie Mallex Smith hit an RBI single against Edwin Jackson (0-1) with two outs in the 10th inning as Atlanta completed a three-game sweep after arriving in Miami 0-9.

Atlanta blew a 5-0 lead, and Ichiro Suzuki's RBI single on an 0-2 pitch from Jason Grilli (1-0) with two outs in the ninth tied the game for Miami.

Twins 3, Angels 2

In Minneapolis, Oswaldo Arcia's single down the left field line scored Byron Buxton in the 12th as Minnesota com-

pleted a three-game sweep.

Trevor Plouffe had three hits and an RBI and Kyle Gibson gave up two runs on four hits in seven innings for the Twins.

Pirates 9, Brewers 3

In Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen homered for the second straight day, and Matt Joyce and Gregory Polanco each had three of Pittsburgh's 17 hits.

Juan Nicasio (2-1) allowed three runs over six innings for Pittsburgh, giving up all the Milwaukee offense in the fourth after three perfect in-

nings to start the game.

Blue Jays 5, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Aaron Sanchez (1-0) allowed two hits in seven innings of one-run ball, and Jose Bautista drove in two runs with a solo homer and a double.

Edwin Encarnacion added two singles and an RBI for the Blue Jays, who had lost two straight and were 1-4 against the Red Sox.

Astros 5, Tigers 4

In Houston, Jose Altuve led off Houston's first inning with a solo home run and had three RBI, and George Springer also

hit a solo homer as Houston won its first series this season.

Mike Fiers (1-1) gave up four runs and seven hits in 5 2/3 innings with five strikeouts. Anibal Sanchez (2-1) was tagged for five runs.

Cardinals 4, Reds 3

In St. Louis, Eric Fryer had three hits, including the go-ahead double with two outs in the eighth off Ross Ohlendorf (2-1). A backup to All-Star catcher Yadier Molina, Fryer got his first start this season and is 6 for 6 at the plate.

Matt Carpenter and Jedd Gyorko hit solo homers for St.

Von Miller to miss start of Broncos offseason program



DENVER
(AP)—When the Denver Broncos begin their off-season program

on Monday, Super Bowl MVP Von Miller won't be there. He won't be there Tuesday or later in the week. And without a new long-term deal, there's no guarantee he'll be at the team's summer minicamp or even arrive on time for training camp.

That's an indication of the financial distance between the Broncos and Miller. The two sides are not close, with a disparity believed to be in the neighborhood of \$20 million total over a span of five years.

That's a difference of roughly \$4 million per season. Two sources familiar with the negotiation pegged Denver's offer as hovering around \$18 million per season (roughly \$90 million over five years). With the \$4 million disparity in mind, that puts Miller's stance at around \$22 million

annually (roughly \$110 million over five years).

Interestingly, the Broncos are squaring up in this negotiation in a manner that has come to define this offseason. They're drawing a financial line in the sand, a familiar tune for the franchise. Here's a list of names over the past several months that defined Denver's bottom-line approach: Derek Wolfe, Malik Jackson, Brock Osweiler, Danny Trevathan, Ryan Clady, Russell Okung and Colin Kaepernick. And now, Von Miller has joined the party.

The value of those players has been viewed through a fiscal-minded lens this offseason. Specifically, what general manager John Elway was or wasn't willing to pay for their skills. But salary-cap guru Mike Sullivan has interestingly emerged as a power broker in the roster-shaping process, too. Sullivan has been a strong voice this offseason, both in Elway's ear and at the nego-

tiating table, multiple league sources told Yahoo Sports.

Here's where things currently stand with Miller: The Broncos feel they've put a strong and fair offer on the table for a player who isn't actually on the open market. The Broncos aren't interested in looking at Miller's value on the "open market" because he isn't on it thanks to the franchise tag. To the Broncos, they are using the tag as a tool to retain Miller for this year and potentially the next season, while paying him a fair price for his services. And in the team's estimation, Miller could be retained for the next two seasons at a total price of around \$32 million. The \$16 million per season for the next two years means Denver's offer of \$18 million per year averages out to more for the next two years than the Broncos would be paying otherwise.

The team also sees the \$18-million-per-season of-

fer as a good deal for Miller, making him the second-highest-paid defensive player in the NFL, behind Miami's Ndamukong Suh (who has an annual average of \$19.062 million). For some perspective, multiple league sources said Denver is comfortable with its offer because it puts Miller ahead of other "overpaid" annual deals signed elsewhere. Among those are Suh, New York Giants defensive end Olivier Vernon (\$17 million) and Kansas City Chiefs linebacker Justin Houston (\$16.8 million).

That outlook isn't dovetailing with the approach Miller and his camp are taking, particularly as it pertains to pass rushers, sources said. Vernon's deal will be viewed as a market-setter by every high-end edge rusher. The price for top-shelf players who get to the quarterback, or potentially do more, went up significantly this offseason.

History repeats: US women’s soccer team still in wage fight

NEW YORK (AP)—Trailblazers for the U.S. women’s national team can’t believe their successors are still having the same debate over equal pay and treatment.

Michelle Akers and Julie Foudy, U.S. national team players on the 1991 and 1999 World Cup-winning teams, were among the women who drew attention to the issue two decades ago—when a group of players first took a stand over Olympic bonuses.

“It’s so frustrating, and it’s surprising. Now? Still? It’s been so many years and we’ve had so much success and there have been so many changes,” said Akers, who retired in 2000. “But the stance is a constant: ‘Look, you guys are lucky to play. You guys should be grateful to play.’”

Past battles give context to the current dispute between the national team and the U.S. Soccer Federation. The 2015 World Cup champions recently filed a complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claiming wage discrimination by the federation.

The filing points out the disparity in the pay structure for



the men’s and women’s teams. The top female players are paid a salary of about \$72,000 a year by U.S. Soccer to play in a minimum of 20 exhibitions per year. They are awarded bonuses only if they win those games, with the potential to earn \$99,000, the complaint said.

Conversely, the men are paid a minimum of \$5,000 for each match. Compensation varies with the level of



opponent, based on FIFA ranking, but male players can earn up to \$263,320 if they win all of their games.

Among the other examples cited in the filing: For making the World Cup roster, the women receive a bonus of \$30,000 and the men \$68,750.

Ranked No. 1 in the world, the U.S. women are coming off a wildly successful year. Not only did they win the World Cup in 2015, but

the victory drew record television ratings (25.4 million viewers). The team helped generate \$17.7 million more in revenue than expected for the USSF.

“I don’t want to speak for the players, but my sense is ‘Really, we’re still having this conversation?’” Foudy said. “Our fight was, it would be nice to get more than \$10 per diem and that was it. It’s much different and nuanced than years ago.”

Colombia’s Orianica Velasquez (9) and United States’ Whitney Engen (6) battle for the ball during the second half of an international friendly soccer match, Sunday, April 10, 2016, in Chester, Pa. The United States won, 3-0.

Also, the players are currently in a contract dispute with USSF. The federation filed a lawsuit against the women’s union seeking to clarify the length of the collective bargaining agreement, which it says is effective until December. The players’ union maintains it expired in February and retains its right to strike.

That leaves the team in uncertain territory heading into this summer’s Rio Olympics, where the Americans will try to win their fourth straight gold medal. While some retired players don’t think the U.S. team will strike, it’s not completely off the table.

The EEOC filing is the latest salvo in what has been a

long-simmering issue for the national team.

Back in 1995, a group of high-profile players including Akers, Foudy, Mia Hamm, Kristine Lilly and Joy Fawcett were locked out of a pre-Olympic training camp by the USSF because of a disagreement over bonus pay. The federation had offered a bonus only for the gold, the women wanted incremental pay for medals. The men were given bonuses per win. The dispute was quickly settled.

It was especially emotional for Akers, who was among those working hard to bring women’s soccer to the Olympics. The Americans won gold in the sport’s debut at the 1996 Atlanta Games.

“When we played, we played because we loved it and because we wanted to kick ass and be the best in the world,” Akers said. “But we also played to grow the game, we did that intentionally. And we played to inspire people.”

Tuesday, Thursday billiards to crown top teams

By JON PEREZ
jon.perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The best teams in the Tuesday’s Budweiser Cup and the regular season of the Thursday Open 8-Ball side will be known this week as both leagues wrap up their respective matches in the Saipan Billiards Association-organized competition.

Only two teams remain in Tuesday’s Budweiser-SBA Cup with the Joker Destroyers

and sister squad Straight Black Ball clashing for the title after dispatching separate foes in last week’s semifinals.

The Hustlers, runners-up to the IT&E Voyagers in the regular season of the Tuesday League, escaped with a 9-8 win over the Destroyers with the duo of Nolan Cultura and Cesar Sangalang beating Senen Pangilinan and Erwin Gomez in the final Partners 8-Ball event.



Tonight, they will face a Straight Black Ball side that’s fresh from scoring a 9-7 decision over Jonny’s Crazy 8.

The Hustlers also knocked out regular season champs Jokers IT&E Voyagers in the first round of the Budweiser-SBA Cup, while the Destroyers eliminated the Jonny’s Wild Boyz.

In the Thursday league’s regular season, fourth-seed

Wild Bill’s Wild Wild West will collide with the Jokers Homeboyz for the division crown after dispatching top-ranked Jokers Alamo Car Rental, 9-7, at the start of the playoffs. The Homeboyz earned the right to face the Wild Bill’s-backed squad after a 9-5 decision over the Wildboyz.

The Wild Bill’s-Homeboyz title match is set this Thursday, the same day Alamo and Wildboyz clash for the third place honors.

CUKI
From Page 28

Meanwhile, the 2016 Annual Smoking Wheels featured 11 events with Japan’s Ikuo Hanawa taking the overall win in the centerpiece three-hour offroad endurance race. Other competitions held were the ATV/

UTV kart race, proline drift series, mini mid ATV endurance, mud drags, road buggies and trucks endurance, mid open ATV, 85cc mini bike, drag race championship, and MMX motocross. A car show and grilling contest also took place as side events in the annual competition.

KIM
From Page 28

Kim, 6-0, 6-1, and move into the next round.

The No. 1 seed Kang is also assured of a spot to the semis following his 6-0, 6-0 victory against Jae Hon Son, who marched into the Round of 8 after outlasting Chris Ryu, 4-6, 7-5, 10-3. Kang will go for the finals berth against Miyawaki, who pulled off an upset against the No.4-ranked Anthony Gregoire, 6-4, 6-0, to qualify in the semifinals.

In other results, Andrew Chung is ahead in the round-robin boys U10 singles as he completed the pool play with a 2-1 record. Chung got back-to-back wins last Sunday, beating Danny Jeoung, 6-0, and Min Gi Jung, 6-2, to make up for his opening day loss to Gregoire, 4-6. Gregoire has a chance to grab the lead from Chung and take the division championship if he wins one of his last two matches this weekend, while Jung is locked for third place following his 6-0 victory against Jeoung.

SAIPAN
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Pipit Ball ranked sixth after checking in at 50:31. Japan’s Yukiko Inaba (48:10) and Shiho Fujimaru (49:56) and South Korea’s Kim So Young (49:35) rounded out the Top 6, who received awards and cash prizes during the banquet at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan’s beach side.

Conatsu’s young sister, Coume, and their mother, Ayumi, were also recognized at the awards ceremony as they were among the five Saipan runners who topped their age group races. Coume reigned supreme in the girls U14 division after timing in at 52:47, while Ayumi had a better time at 51:04 to prevail in the women’s 40 to 49 age group. This was the second straight year that the Kagas won their respective age groups.

Other age group top fin-

ishers in the women’s divisions were China’s Xile Lyu (1:00:53/15 to 19) and Ziyan Liu (56:34/20 to 29), Saipan’s Ayana Braxton (53:26/30 to 39), and Japan’s Chiho Kotani (51:48/50 to 59) and Kazue Yamada (1:00:51/over 60).

In the men’s division, Saipan’s Rintaro Miyawaki claimed first place in the U14 age group after logging 44:23, while his fellow Saipan Swim Club member David Boyer ruled the 15 to 19 division with a time of 56:20. Kosuke Sato was the third Saipan runner to win his age group (40 to 49) after making it to the finish line at the 45:27 mark.

South Korea’s Lin Dongju (44:05) and Japan’s Katsuhiko Mizuno (47:30), Kenzo Kashizume (50:07), and Sakae Sato (50:20) completed the age group top finishers list after winning in the 20 to 29, 30 to 39, 50 to 59, and over 50 divisions, respectively.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
LOCAL SCORES				
SAIPAN BASEBALL LEAGUE				
Team Standings				
Teams	W	L	PCT	
Titanium	3	0	1.000	
CK Bears	3	0	1.000	
Falcons	2	1	0.667	
Yankees	2	1	0.667	
GSM Brewers	1	1	0.500	
Aces	0	2	0.000	
North Starz	0	3	0.000	
Blue Jays	0	3	0.000	
Batting Leaders (Based on 9 or more AB)				
Name	Teams	AB	Hit	BA
Davie Matagolai	Blue Jays	10	6	.600
Giovanni Mira	Falcons	9	5	.556
AJ Evangelista	Falcons	10	5	.500
Patrick Tenorio	Titanium	10	5	.500
Jhace Palacios	Titanium	9	4	.445
Jun Rabauliman	Titanium	9	4	.445
Jose Lizama	CK Bears	12	5	.417
Peyton Lizama	CK Bears	10	4	.400
AJ Lizama	CK Bears	10	4	.400
Gary Cruz	Yankees	16	6	.375
Roke Tenorio	North Starz	11	4	.364
Ben Leon Guerrero	Yankees	14	5	.357
Brian Camacho	Titanium	15	5	.333
Keola Camacho	Blue Jays	9	3	.333
Jerald Cabrera	Titanium	10	3	.300
Individual Stats				
Runs				
Peyton Lizama	CK Bears		6	
Brian Camacho	Titanium		6	
Doubles				
Tim Cruz	North Starz		2	
Peter Tomokane	Yankees		2	
RBIs				
Peter Tomokane	Yankees		4	
AJ Lizama	CK Bears		4	
Brian Camacho	Titanium		4	
Pitching Leaders (Based on 5 or more innings pitched)				
Name	Team	IP	ER	ERA
Ricky Joe Riungel	Falcons	10	0	0.00
Brian Camacho	Titanium	5.1	0	0.00
Jared Camacho	North Starz	5	0	0.00
Michael Muna Jr.	Aces	12	2	1.50
Leonard Sablan	Brewers	6	1	1.50
Jeffrey Lizama	CK Bears	10	2	1.80
Keola Camacho	Blue Jays	10	2	1.80
Kevin Kapileo	Yankees	5	1	1.80
Peter Lieto	Yankees	9.2	2	1.86
VJ King	North Starz	9	3	3.00
Strikeouts Leaders				
Name	Team	SO		
Peter Lieto	Yankees	18		
Michael Muna	Aces	17		
Jose Lizama Jr.	CK Bears	13		
Joe Palacios	Titanium	11		

2016 Saipan Marathon

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Skechers-sponsored runners Ben Babauta, left, and Mamiko Berger pose for a photo before going to the starting line of last Saturday's 2016 Saipan Marathon.



Runners in the 10K race take it slow as they leave the starting line.



Saipan Awaodori Team members pose for a photo before racing in the 10K event.



Runners competing in the 50K and marathon leave the starting line at exactly 4am.



Half marathon participants make their way out of the American Memorial Park grounds.



The last wave of runners entered in the 50K and marathon races heads out to the course.



T Galleria employees gather for a photo at the starting line.

The second wave of half marathon participants heads out to the course.



Big 3 lifts Cavs
past Pistons in
Game 1

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Saipan Tribune Sports

A-Rod, Yanks
stop skids
in victory vs
Mariners

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Kim sets up semis duel vs Villanueva

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The boys U18 singles competition in the 2016 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships is down to the Final Four after five games in the division were completed over the weekend at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Saipan runners show way in 10K



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Keith Longuski gestures as he cuts the tape en route to a first place finish in the 10K event of last Saturday's 2016 Saipan Marathon.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Keith Longuski led the list of Saipan runners who topped their respective divisions in the 10K course of last Saturday's 2016 Saipan Marathon.

Longuski, who has been winning middle distance races on island for the last two years, was the first overall finisher in the 10K event, completing the run from American Memorial Park to Char Store (in Beach Road near the Saipan Mayor's Office) and back to the starting line in 37:43. He was the only 10K runner to break the 40-minute barrier and his time eclipsed the 40:17 recorded by 2015 winner Izuru

Nakashima of Japan.

Longuski, who debuted in the annual event, won the 10K by more than two minutes against South Korea's Sangkuk Ye (40:02). Japan's Yukihiro Okada (40:07), Kenichi Ogawa (40:57), and Kenji Morimoto (42:44) and South Korea's Taehun Kim (42:48) joined Longuski and Ye in the Top 6 overall rankings in the men's division.

In the women's field, Tomoe Yokoyama had a repeat after clocking 43:00. The Japanese ruled the same event last year with a faster time of 42:18.

Two Saipan runners made it to the Top 6 in the women's division with 13-year-old Conatsu Kaga placing second with her time of 45:15 and

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Tony Kim, last year's champion in the boys U14 singles, is among the four players left to battle for the U18 singles plum as he made it to the semifinals after sweeping Jimin Woo, 6-1, 6-1, in the upper half of the draw. Kim's semis opponent will be the top-ranked Moris Villanueva, who moved a win away from marching into the finals after eliminating Ken Song, 6-2, 6-0. Ren, before faltering in his upset bid against Villanueva, advanced to the quarterfinals after downing Sean Lee, 6-1, 6-2.

Joining Kim and Villanueva in the Final Four were Robbie Schorr and Vincent Tudela. Schorr booked one of the two semis tickets at the lower half of the draw after dominating Steven Goodwin, 6-0, 6-1. Tudela, on the other hand, did not break a sweat in taking the second semis slot in the same group after a victory via walkover against the second-ranked Michael Ren.

The semis matches and finals game in the boys U18 singles will be played this weekend.

Meanwhile, the Final Four cast in the boys U12 and U14 singles were also completed over the weekend.

Lee rounded out the semis

qualifiers in the boys U14 singles after shutting down his foe last Saturday. Lee posted his 6-0, 6-0 win over Ji Hwan Sam Ryu in the upper half of the draw to arrange a semis tiff against the No. 1 seed Woo, who got a bye in the opening week of the annual tournament.

The second-ranked Paik also drew a bye in Week 1 and was scheduled to meet Jack Jeong in the semis of the lower half of the draw late Sunday afternoon, but results of their game were unavailable at press time.

In the boys U12 singles, Paik is also in the semifinals, joining Daniel Kang, Rintaro Miyawaki, and Richard Steele.

Paik is seeded third in the division and barged into the Final Four after easing past Seung Won Lee, 6-0, 6-0. Paik will be paired in the semifinals against the No. 2-ranked Steele, who also needed only two sets to eliminate Andy

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tony Kim goes for a smash during his and Michael Ren's doubles match against Vince Tudela and Steven Goodwin in the 2016 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Cuki wins in Smokin' Wheels

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Cuki Alvarez had a triumphant return to motocross after winning an event in the 2016 APL Smokin' Wheels held in Guam over the weekend.

Alvarez teamed up with long-time friend Larry Limtiaco of Guam and they got first place in the 40-and-over veteran class of the Open dirt bike division, besting 24 others in last Sunday's event at the Guam International Raceway in Yigo. The competition was Alvarez's first in eight years, as he concentrated in organizing MMA events and training fighters after Cowtown race track closed down several years ago.

"It felt great to be back. It was so last minute, as I got a call from my friend, Larry, asking me to be his partner



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan's Cuki Alvarez, right, poses with Guam's Larry Limtiaco after winning in the 2016 APL Smokin' Wheels held in Guam over the weekend.

one week before the event. I did not train or prepare for this race. I just did it for good times," said Alvarez, who used to join races in Guam, Japan, and the Philippines.

"I did it for fun and wasn't expecting to win anything but when I realized we had a legitimate chance of winning, I took it a little more serious," added Alvarez, who received a lot of congratulatory remarks from friends and fellow motocross riders for his successful return to the race track.

When asked if the competition in Guam is just a start of the many races he will be participating in, Alvarez answered with a laugh.

"I had no intention of ever competing again, but after this weekend, I may have reignited my passion again."

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